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## NAACP Surveillance - Cops spied On Moral Monday protesters

By Michael Biesecker

RALEIGH (AP) - The Raleigh Police Department conducted undercover surveillance at meetings of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP held to organize mass protests of the Republican-led state legislature, a city council member says.

Raleigh City Council member Mary-Ann Baldwin said officials confirmed the surveillance to her on Oct. 7 following inquiries by The Associated Press.

"Raleigh Police did attend meetings," said Baldwin, a woman of the council's Law and Public Safety Committee. "I was distressed to learn about this. We were reluctant to even be involved because we don't think arresting people for speaking their minds is the right thing to do."

Baldwin said she was told Raleigh officers attended the NAACP planning events to help ensure public safety and security.

"They just didn't want there to be any major issues that we were not prepared for," she said. "They wanted to make sure things went smoothly."

The revelations about surveillance could have potential implications for hundreds of pending cases.

About 940 people were arrested at the weekly Moral Monday rallies opposing GOP-backed policies that protesters said damaged public education, voting rights and other issues. Raleigh Police provided additional manpower to the N.C. General Assembly Police during the protests, with city officers often escorting arrestees on their way to jail.

State NAACP president William Barber said he is confident Raleigh police chose to conduct surveillance at the planning meetings, which were typically held in the sanctuary of a nearby church. He stressed the protesters were non-violent and said they had nothing to hide. If the officers had worn uniforms or introduced themselves, they would have been welcomed, Barber said.

"It's not like we were planning a bank heist," he said. "Honestly, what we did was pray and sing."

The weekly planning meetings were announced in advance and generally open to the public. However, there were portions of the meetings during which news reporters were asked to leave so protesters could receive information from volunteer lawyers about what to expect if they were arrested. Barber said he is worried if police officers and prosecutors are privy to the legal advice provided to the protesters that might have violated attorney-client privilege.

John Joyner, a professor at the N.C. Central University School of Law representing several of the protesters at the trial, said he and other defense lawyers are likely to seek disclosure of any police surveillance reports through discovery motions.

The surveillance first came to light at the trial of Salim Muhammad, a U.S. Army veteran and labor activist arrested on May 13 while at a Moral Monday protest.

General Assembly Police Chief Jeff Weaver testified he received advance intelligence reports from another law enforcement agency about the protesters' plans. Asked for a break which agency had provided him the reports, Weaver said he could not discuss operational details.

During her cross examination of Muhammad, Assistant District Attorney Mary Elizabeth Wilson asked the prosecutor a series of questions suggesting she had some knowledge of what occurred in the NAACP meetings. (Continued On Page 15)



Young ladies participating in program celebrating the 127th Anniversary of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. See pictures on page 2.

## Groups criticize NC officer arrest in man's death

By Mitch Weiss

CHARLOTTE (AP) - Hours after a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer fatally shot an unarmed man, the department made a rare move: It charged the officer with voluntary manslaughter.

Most police departments, including Charlotte, usually take weeks - sometimes months - to complete an investigation of a police shooting. But the decision to quickly charge Randall Kerrick is now drawing sharp criticism from police groups and being followed closely by law enforcement departments across the country.

Critics call the department's move a rush to judgment and say it will have a chilling effect on officers in the field.

"What it does is it shakes their confidence because, like it or not, most cops like to think their department has their back," Randy Hagler, president of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, told The Associated Press. "That's not to say the department is going to cover anything up. They just want the department to give them a fair shake. That's all we ask for. And officers in our community don't necessarily all feel that way."

Dan Trella, police chief in Waterloo, Iowa, said he's been following the case and warned that filing charges quickly could put officers at risk.

"My concern is we're going to have an officer - any officer someplace in the country - hesitate when they are justified in taking action and lose their life," he said.

Police shootings are generally high-profile stories in local communities. And when race is involved they often attract national attention. In Charlotte, the officer charged in the shooting is white; Jonathan Ferrell, the man who was shot and a former Florida A&M football player, is black.

Ferrell's encounter with police was set in motion at 2:30 a.m. Sept. 14, when his car ran off the entrance road to a suburban neighborhood about 15 miles from downtown Charlotte. After crashing his car into trees, Ferrell kicked out the back window and headed up a hill to the first cluster of houses he could see.

Police said Ferrell knocked on a door seeking help. The woman inside called 911, thinking he was trying to break into her home.

Kerrick and two other officers responded to the call. They found Ferrell on a road that leads only to the neighborhood's pool. Ferrell ran toward the officers, who tried to stop him with a Taser. Police said he continued to run toward them and Kerrick fired 12 shots, hitting Ferrell with all but two. Ferrell died at the scene.

At first, Kerrick - who has been with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police since April 2011 - and the two other officers at the scene were placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation probe into the shooting.

But later that day, Kerrick, 27, was charged with voluntary manslaughter and released on \$50,000 bond.

Police Chief Rodney Monroe said that while Ferrell did advance on Kerrick, the shooting was excessive. Monroe said the department's investigation showed the officer didn't have a lawful right to discharge his weapon during this encounter.

Kerrick's attorneys said the shooting was justified because Ferrell didn't obey verbal commands to stop. But the attorney for Ferrell's family said the shots were fired in such close proximity that they never gave Ferrell a chance to respond.

Civil rights leaders have praised the police for quickly filing charges. Ferrell's family said the 24-year-old moved to Charlotte about a month ago. (Continued On Page 15)

### Prison sentence sought for Kwame Kilpatrick's dad

DETROIT (AP) - Federal prosecutors are recommending prison next week for the father of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Bernard Kilpatrick was convicted of a single tax crime by the same jury that convicted his son and contractor Bobby Ferguson of more serious crimes. The government is asking for a sentence of somewhere from 27 to 33 months.

Bernard Kilpatrick was charged with racketeering conspiracy, but the jury couldn't reach a verdict. He was acquitted of attempted extortion.

Nonetheless, the government says there's evidence to show the 72-year-old Bernard Kilpatrick worked closely with Kwame Kilpatrick to strong-arm people who wanted city work.

The government says Bernard Kilpatrick made cash deposits of \$605,000 during that period. Kilpatrick's lawyer says he was a legitimate consultant.

Kwame Kilpatrick was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

### Wilder endorsing Democrat McAuliffe for Va gov

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Former Gov. Doug Wilder is endorsing Democrat Terry McAuliffe in Virginia's gubernatorial race.

The nation's first elected black governor tells The Associated Press he believes McAuliffe is the most inclusive and forward-looking of the candidates in the nation's only competitive governor's race. He also says that McAuliffe's lack of state government experience may serve him well by freeing him to view government in fresh ways.

The endorsement came as a fresh Quinnipiac University poll showed McAuliffe leading Republican Ken Cuccinelli by 8 percentage points 26 days before election day in the swing state.

Wilder says the next governor will inherit a well-managed state from exiting Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell. But he cautions that it's never too late for those seeking the office to immerse themselves in details of Virginia's budget.

### Durham Branch

### Freedom Fund Banquet Set

The Durham Branch NAACP's 39th Freedom Fund Banquet will be held, Nov. 1 at p.m. at the Durham Armory, 220 Foster St.

The Honorees are: Mrs. Margaret Keller and John C. "Peepie" Scarborough, III. Special Recognition to: Dr. Bert J. Lefkowitz.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president, NC NAACP. Master of Ceremonies Rev. Curtis Newwood, HKonJ Coalition Leader, NC NAACP.

For ticket information call 919- 682-4930