

DAVI7 12/01/12 \*\*CHILL  
UNC-CH SERIALS DEPARTMENT  
DAVIS LIBRARY CB# 3938  
208 RALEIGH STREET  
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

ed 1  
c295  
NCC

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

TIME 92 - NUMBER 44

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 30

## GOP Lawyers Want to Keep 'Voter Suppression' Rules

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - Attorneys for the state of North Carolina and Gov. Pat McCrory on Oct. 21 requested that a pair of federal lawsuits challenging substantial changes to portions of a law overhauling voting in the state be dismissed. In their initial formal responses to litigation filed in August, McCrory signed the bill into law, the lawyers denied all racial discrimination allegations made by civil rights and advocacy groups and voters about the legislation. The lawsuits seek to throw out new rules requiring photo identification to vote starting in 2016, reducing the number of early-voting days a week and eliminating same-day registration during the early-voting period, among other steps. The lawsuits argue the changes are discriminatory and would make it disproportionately harder for black voters to vote, turning back the clock on voting rights. The responses lacked explanations why the portions of the law were being struck on the basis of the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution should be upheld. Instead those responses largely stuck to legal language admitting facts or denying allegations from dozens of pages of the original litigation.

Bob Stephens, McCrory's chief legal counsel, said in a statement "the allegations made by the plaintiffs are simply wrong as a matter of law and fact. The governor remains confident that the law will be upheld."

Speaking separately Oct. 21 in Washington at a conservative think tank, McCrory said the law "protects the integrity of our ballot box" and many changes made still keep North Carolina's election laws in line with those in the majority of other states in many areas.

The lawsuits "are political and without merit, because our (modified) laws have been greatly exaggerated," he said at The Heritage Foundation.

Lawyers representing the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said later Oct. 21 the responses were thin and didn't give any new explanation to judges why the law should be upheld.

"They set out no justification for the law," said Penda Hair, a Washington-based civil rights attorney, during a conference call. Hair said "we believe we have a very strong and compelling case" to block what the challengers call a deliberate effort by Republican legislative leaders and McCrory to discourage blacks and other groups from voting.

"Voting is really the basic foundation of our democracy and no elected official should attempt to make it harder for people to participate," state NAACP president the Rev. William Barber said.

The state's responses don't address two other lawsuits, including one filed by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and a state lawsuit challenging the voter ID requirement alone. The state doesn't have to file those responses until later this fall. But the attorneys did ask federal judges to delay rulings on the photo ID challenge in until the state lawsuit filed in Chatham County is resolved.

(Continued On Page 15)



## Jay-Z defends deal with Barneys accused of profiling

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody and Karen Matthews

NEW YORK (AP) - Jay-Z - under increasing pressure to back out of a collaboration with the luxury store Barneys New York after it was accused of racially profiling two black customers - said Saturday he was unfairly "demonized" for just waiting to hear all of the details.

The rap mogul made his first statement about the controversy in a video on his website. He has come under fire for remaining silent as the story surfaced this week that two young black people said they were racially profiled by Barneys after they purchased expensive items from their Manhattan store.

An online petition and Twitter messages from fans have been circulating this week, calling on the star to bow out of his upcoming partnership with Barneys for the holiday season, which will have the rapper selling items by top designers, inspired by Jay-Z, with some of the proceeds going to his charity. He is also working with the store to promote its artistic holiday window display.

Jay-Z - whose real name is Shawn Carter - defended himself, saying that he hasn't spoken about it because he's still trying to figure out exactly what happened.

"I want to move and speak based on facts and not emotion," the star said. "I haven't made any comments because I am waiting on the outcome of a meeting between community leaders and Barneys. Why am I being demonized, denounced and thrown on the front page of a newspaper for not speaking immediately?" he said, referring to local newspaper headlines.

The two Barneys customers, Trayon Christian and Kayla Phillips, said this week they were detained by police after making expensive purchases.

Christian sued Barneys, saying he was accused of fraud after using a debit card to buy a \$349 Ferragamo belt in April. Phillips filed a lawsuit of claim saying she would sue after she was stopped by police outside the store when she bought a \$2,500 Celine handbag for \$1,000.

As the criticism grew, Barneys said Thursday it had retained a legal rights expert to help review its procedures. The CEO of Barneys, Mark Lee, offered his "sincere regret and deepest apologies." Jay-Z's attorney, Stephen John Foy, an official with the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Black Leadership Initiative Project, said he would meet with Barneys officials on Tuesday to discuss the racial profiling allegations.

Jay-Z - who rose from a life of crime in Brooklyn to become one of the most heralded rappers and one of entertainment's biggest stars - has in the past called for a boycott of labels perceived to be discriminatory and has become more political in recent years, from speaking out about the killing of black teenager Trayvon Martin to campaigning for President Barack Obama.

Jay-Z said in this case, he's still trying to find out what happened and why he was silent.

(Continued On Page 15)



Pictured from left to right are: Ronald C. Parker, president and CEO of The Executive Leadership Council and Foundation; Lynton Scotland, co-chair of The Executive Leadership Foundation Community Impact Initiative; Michael C. Hyter, chairman of The Executive Leadership Foundation board and managing director, Korn/Ferry International; North Carolina Central University Chancellor Debra Saunders-White; and, Tracey Gray-Walker, co-chair of the Community Impact Initiative and senior vice president at Axa Equitable.)

## Executive Leadership Foundation Awards NCCU \$350,000 for Summer Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Academy

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The Executive Leadership Foundation awarded North Carolina Central University a grant of \$350,000 during its annual Recognition Gala on Oct. 24. The grant was provided under ELF's Community Impact Initiative, a national program aimed at closing the achievement gap among black middle and high school students. Previous grantees include INROADS, LEAD and A Better Chance. Dr. Debra Saunders-White, NCCU chancellor, accepted the award which will support the university's Summer Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Academy.

"Through our Community Impact Initiative, we are making a strategic investment in the next generation of business leaders, providing more than \$1 million in just three years to deserving grantees," said Ronald C. Parker, president and CEO of The Executive Leadership Council and Foundation. "We are pleased to expand our impact and reach by providing this grant to North Carolina Central University's Summer Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Academy."

The NCCU School of Business and ELF are aligned around the goal of preparing students for career success and global leadership. Under the Summer Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Academy, high school sophomores and juniors take part in a two-week, non-residential business and entrepreneurship immersion program. Students participate in lectures, corporate visits, and a case competition, where they work in teams to prepare a business plan. A panel of judges from the business community evaluates the plan and awards a prize to the winning team.

"This generous gift from The Executive Leadership Foundation will enable NCCU to invest in training for the next generation of business leaders, entrepreneurs and scholars," said Dr. Debra Saunders-White, NCCU chancellor. "We are thankful to the ELF for supporting our efforts to build a pipeline of skilled individuals for the workforce in North Carolina and our nation."

The partnership with ELF will allow the NCCU Summer Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Academy to expand its outreach to include more students and provide additional services at no cost to the student. The program began in 2012 with 16 and is expected to grow to 60 students in 2014 and double its enrollment in both 2015 and 2016.

## Former Rep. Major Owens of Brooklyn dies at 77

By Karen Matthews

NEW YORK (AP) - Major Owens, a New York City Democrat who served 12 terms in the U.S. House and was credited with helping to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, has died at age 77.

Owens died Oct. 21 at NYU Langone Medical Center of renal failure and heart failure, his son Chris Owens said. The family posted on Owens' Facebook page that "the brave heart of Congressman Major Owens stopped and he joined the ancestors."

Owens represented a Brooklyn congressional district from 1983 to 2007.

"Today, our country mourns the loss of a devoted public servant who dedicated his life to lifting up the voices of those who too often go unheard," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a statement. "From the classroom to the halls of Congress, Congressman Owens taught all of us what it means to serve with strength, compassion, and commitment to the public good."

New York City Comptroller John Liu said: "New York City has lost a champion who exemplified the very best of what a Congress member can be. His work in helping to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act will serve as one of his lasting legacies."

Owens was born in Collierville, Tenn., and earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and a master's of library science at Atlanta University. He worked as a librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library before entering politics.

In the 1960s, Owens worked on anti-poverty programs in the administration of New York City Mayor John Lindsay, and he was elected to the state Senate in 1974.

(Continued On Page 15)