

C071  
C2941

NCC

\*\*\*\*\*CHILL  
DAVI7 12/01/14  
UNC-CH SERIALS DEPARTMENT  
DAVIS LIBRARY CB# 3938  
208 RALEIGH STREET  
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 93 - NUMBER 7 DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014 TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE:

## Blacks in Florida Victimized By 'Stand Your Ground'

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Two years ago, 14-year-old Trayvon Martin was returning from a trip from a nearby 7-Eleven store in Sanford, Fla. to purchase a bag of Skittles and a can of Arizona tea when he was confronted by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman.

Instead of making it back to the house to watch the tip-off of an NBA All-Star game, the unarmed black teenager was fatally shot in the heart by Zimmerman, who was later acquitted of first-degree murder charges.

The not guilty verdict triggered protests across the country and calls for a review of Florida's controversial Stand Your Ground law that justifies the use of deadly force by anyone who believes their action was necessary to prevent "imminent death or great bodily harm" to them. The killer gets a free pass even if the person on the receiving

end of a deadly bullet is unarmed. Even if that person is not breaking any laws. Even if that person happens to be a frightened black teenager. Especially if that person is a frightened black teenager.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, will mark the 2-year anniversary of Trayvon Martin's death. Two years after the fatal slaying, Florida and more than 20 other states still have Stand Your Ground statutes in place, which have led to other incidents with racial overtones.

Standing on Florida's Stand Your Ground law, Zimmerman, who identified himself as Hispanic, was acquitted July 13, 2013 of first-degree murder.

On Saturday, six months later, a jury failed to reach a first degree murder verdict against Michael Dunn, a white computer programmer, in connection with the death of Jordan Davis, a black teenager, at a Jacksonville, Fla. convenience store. Upset over the loud music coming from of a vehicle occupied by 17-year-old Davis and his friends - whom Dunn instantly characterized as "gangsters" and "thugs" - an enraged Dunn fired 10 shots into their Dodge Durango SUV. He continued to shoot into the vehicle even after it sped away, according to witnesses.



Wendell M. Davis

### Wendell M. Davis Named Durham County Manager

On Monday, February 10, the Durham Board of County Commissioners named Wendell M. Davis as the new Durham County Manager. He replaces Mike Ruffin who retired on January 31st.

Davis is currently Vice Chancellor for administration and finance at North Carolina Central University. Prior to joining NCCU, he served as Durham's Deputy County Manager from October 1999- May 2011.

"We are excited to have Wendell return to our organization with his experience and commitment to county government," said Chairman Michael D. Page of the appointment of Davis. "His vision and passion directed towards building an efficient government will allow us to serve our citizens more effectively. We look forward to his leadership as we embrace innovative opportunities to build our system."

"I am humbled to have this opportunity to return to leadership in Durham County, a prime community in our region," said Davis following his selection. "While there are challenges ahead of us, I look forward to partnering with the Board of County Commissioners, citizens and institutions throughout Durham, the region and the state to keep this community, THE community to live, work and play."



Seated from right to left at 50th anniversary of March on Washington: Attorney Ben Crump, Sybriana Fulton, victim's mother; Tracy Martin, father, and Jahvaris Fulton, brother (NNPA Photo by Freddie Allen)

A jury composed of four white males, four white females, two black females, a Hispanic male and an Asian female found Dunn guilty on three attempted second-degree murder charges, which could land him in jail for at least 60 years. However, a verdict could not be reached on first-degree murder charges, the most serious offense.

Al Sharpton called for the civil rights community to redouble its efforts in Florida, a state he described as "ground zero" for the battle against Stand Your Ground laws. Sharpton stated, "From Trayvon Martin to Jordan Davis enough is enough."

But the Stand Your Ground law in Florida is not enough when the assailant is black.

For example, in 2010, a year before Trayvon Martin was killed by Zimmerman, Michael Giles, who was on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, and some friends were attending a party at a local nightclub in Tallahassee when a fight broke out between Florida A&M University fraternities.

Giles, who was licensed to carry a concealed weapon, went to his vehicle and retrieved a pistol and stuck it in his pants pocket. Giles testified - and other witnesses confirmed - that he was punched in the face, lying on the floor and fearing for his life. Giles drew his gun. (Continued On Page 2)

## Why Rev. Chavis' Bid For NCDP Director Was Blocked

By Cash Michaels  
Special to the NNPA from The Carolinian

[RALEIGH, NC] The fallout from the badly mishandled nomination of the Rev. Dr. Benjamin L. Chavis, Jr. last week to the post of executive director of the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP), is still unknown.

But the behind-the-scenes movement among Democratic rank-and-file members to ensure that Dr. Chavis, a veteran civil rights leader and member of the Wilmington Ten, was stopped, is something that may give African-American voters in North Carolina pause come the critical 2014 mid-term elections, especially with US Senator Kay Hagan's re-election on the line.

As in 2010, when the Republicans dominated the congressional and state legislative races to claim a solid hold on both the US House and the NC General Assembly, NC Democrats have their work cut out for them this fall convincing black voters that they deserve to return to power. With a lack of fundraising and little energy on their side, state Democrats are almost wholly dependent on outside nonpartisan movements like the NCNAACP's "Moral Monday" and "Historic Thousands on Jones Street" demonstrations.

The Chavis episode, as it played out last week, will not help those efforts.

It all started when NCDP Executive Director Robert Dempsey, who had joined the state party last spring, was summarily fired Sunday, Feb. 9th by NCDP Chairman Randolph Voller. Sources say Voller had become disappointed in Dempsey, and felt it was time for a change.

An offer to Dr. Chavis to take the position, given that the civil rights leader had been planning to return to his home state after years away, was tendered by Voller, and after much thought, accepted by Chavis. Voller became acquainted with Chavis during the 2012 NNPA-led campaign to gain pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten.

Over that weekend Chavis tweeted that he was coming back to North Carolina to help Democrats in 2014, without saying how, or in what capacity. It was not the first time Dr. Chavis has mentioned intentions of being involved in North Carolina politics, having contemplated, just a few years ago, a run for a state House seat from his native Granville County.

Voller retweeted Chavis' message, and once word of Dempsey's dismissal went public, the frenzy among local media and NC rank-and-file Democrats began. It didn't take long for adversaries of Chairman Voller in the party, of which there are many, since the liberal leader edged out moderate competition in 2013, to begin drumbeats of discontent about Dr. Chavis.

Local media began reporting negative stories about Chavis' past membership in the Nation of Islam in 1975 - fueling immediate allegations of anti-Semitism; and rehashing old stories of sexual harassment allegations against Chavis in 1994 when he helmed the NAACP as executive director.

In virtually every false local media report Feb. 10th and 11th, there was no mention that in court papers, Chavis has never admitted any guilt in the NAACP sexual harassment case, even though he tried to settle it quietly for fear that it would hurt the civil rights organization.

Nor was there any reporting that Chavis had left the Nation of Islam in the late 2000's, and has been an ordained Christian minister, and member of Oak Level United Church of Christ in Manson, NC for many years.

And there was certainly no reporting about what Dr. Chavis' productive activities since 1991-95 have been, which include:

- serving as president of the Education Online Services Corporation, an online provider of higher education materials for HBCUs.
- President CEO and cofounder of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Summit
- Cofounder of the Diamond Empowerment Fund which supports scholarships in Africa.
- Syndicated columnist for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, read by 20 million readers.

Nothing was reported about his ministerial doctorates or other degrees from schools like Duke, UNC-Charlotte and Howard University, and the question was never even raised publicly if Dr. Chavis had the requisite experience to even function well in the position of NCDP executive director.

Instead, as Republican officials watched in glee, and the media focused primarily on any negative allegations they could dig up, Democrats took to social media to quickly stir up opposition among the moderate base.

Gary Pearce, who served as press secretary to Gov. Jim Hunt in 1978 when Hunt denied pardons to Chavis and the rest of the Wilmington Ten, took to his "Talking About Politics" online blog and, strongly referring to Dr. Chavis with a never using his name, chided Chairman Voller for wanting to appoint "...the most divisive, controversial figure he can find."

Pearce, who is a loyalist of the so-called moderate "out faction" of the Democratic Party which has reportedly vehemently opposed Voller's administration, later did make direct reference to Chavis by name, writing, "...And maybe...publicans will get so fixated on making Chavis and William Barber (the leader of the NCNAACP's Moral Monday movement) the faces of the Democratic Party that they'll forget about education."

(Continued On Page 2)



Ben. Chavis