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NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White joins students at the Turner Law School Aug. 25 in solidarity with murdered Michael Brown.

NCCU students protest man's death in Missouri

(Staff and AP Wire Reports) - Black law students at North Carolina Central University are holding a rally to protest the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old man by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

The school's Black Law Students Association held the rally Monday on the front steps of the Turner Law Building on the NCCU campus. Speakers will include law professor Irving Joyner along with the head of Black Law Students Association, the president of the Student Bar Association and Rev. William A. Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP.

A police officer shot and killed Michael Brown on Aug. 9. Demonstrations began after that, and authorities have arrested more than 160 people in the protest area. Another fatal police-involved shooting happened in St. Louis.

Protesters have chanted "hands up, don't shoot" in Ferguson and other places across the country. Chancellor Debra Saunders-White joined the students in the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" slogan.

Prof. Irving Joyner challenged students to more outside the environs of NCCU. To "reach out to the broader community and help them in their struggles. He also said after protesting and taking photographs, it is voting that will make the difference..

"We have to go back to using our political power to lift up the community."

Rev. Barber echoed that theme.



NCCU Professor Irving Joyner

Even in loss, Chicago celebrates Little Leaguers

By Michael Tarn

CHICAGO (AP) - Chicago cheered on the hottest sports team in town on Aug. 24 and, for the day at least, it wasn't a team called the Bears, White Sox, Cubs, Bulls or Blackhawks.

The buzz in the nation's third-largest city was for a group of 11- and 12-year-old boys from Chicago's South Side who took on South Korea in the Little League World Series championship game.

And it didn't matter all that much to supporters that the Jackie Robinson West All Stars ended up losing 8-4.

Far from falling quiet with the final out, several hundred supporters who gathered for a TV watch party in a South Side community center gym jumped to their feet, roared and clapped - as if the team had won.

"They showed what heart they have. The city could not be prouder of them," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who attended the party, said of the young players who sought to mount a comeback rally in the last inning.

Watch parties were held across Chicago to support the team, which is based on the city's far South Side, including one on State Street outside the iconic Chicago Theatre.

Neighborhoods from in and around Chicago embraced the Little Leaguers, who defeated a Las Vegas team 7-5 Aug. 23 to become U.S. champions, as their own.

"I have never seen the community come together like this," said Eldridge Dockery, 44, who lives in the South Side's Morgan Park neighborhood. "We're usually behind our walls or gates - but this team brought us out, talking and celebrating together."

The Jackie Robinson West All Stars, made up of all black players, made their first appearance in 31 years in the Little League World Series. The team's journey has been an inspiration for many in a part of Chicago that has grappled with poverty and gang violence.

Asked about the good feeling that infused the area as the Little Leaguers went on to the international championship game, Dockery said, "I hope it lasts."

The sense of unity fostered by the team even applied, in part, to political rivals.

Both Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and Republican gubernatorial challenger Bruce Rauner showed up at the community center gym to watch the Jackie Robinson West All Stars.

"It's all about bringing the city together," Rauner told a reporter.

Rauner sat in a front row, bobbing his head at one point as a green alligator mascot led the crowd in a chant to thumping music. At separate times during breaks in the action, both he and Quinn - who are locked in a tight race - got up and danced.

Emanuel, who is a Democrat, stood with his arms folded at the same event, rocking in apparent nervousness as the game went on. After the loss, he said a celebratory parade would be held anyway on Aug. 27 for the Little League team.

Thousands turn out for rally over chokehold death

By Jonathan Lemire

NEW YORK (AP) - Thousands of people expressing grief, anger and hope for a better future marched peacefully through the New York borough of Staten Island on Aug. 23 to protest the chokehold death of an unarmed black man by a white police officer. Police reported no arrests.

The afternoon rally and march was led by the Rev. Al Sharpton and relatives of Eric Garner, who died July 17 after a New York Police Department officer took him to the ground with a banned tactic in a confrontation captured on video.

The marchers started near a makeshift memorial of flowers, signs and candles set up where Garner was wrestled down and handcuffed. They carried a banner: "We Will Not Go Back, March for Justice."

Police estimated at least 2,500 people had taken to the streets. The crowd included representatives of the United Federation of Teachers and members of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers. City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Zephyr Teachout marched, too.

Diana Smith-Baker, a white Quaker, said it was important for people of all races and religions to bring attention to "the inequities toward black people and Hispanic people by the police department."

James O'Neill, police chief of patrol, credited march organizers for the peaceful turnout.

Earlier, Sharpton warned about 100 marchers at a Staten Island church to remain nonviolent or go home. He also repeated his call for a federal takeover of the criminal probe into the death of the 43-year-old Garner, an asthmatic father of six who was stopped for selling loose cigarettes.

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