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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 97 - NUMBER 25 DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018 TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS

Voter ID, Early Voting Changes: What Do Black Republicans Have To Say?

By Cash Michaels
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At least one black Republican leader considers voter ID and early voting changes "non-issues," even while admitting that in the past, those efforts were led by "racists" who were putting "roadblocks" in African-Americans' way.

Last Friday, the Republican-led NC General Assembly passed Senate Bill 352, which starts early voting in North Carolina this year on Wednesday, Oct. 17th and ends Friday, Nov. 2 – eliminating the final Saturday of early voting, traditionally the most popular early voting day for African-Americans.

The measure now goes to Gov. Cooper, who is expected to veto it. GOP lawmakers are expected to override that veto, and the law may ultimately end up in court.

The bill, which was originally related to something else before it was gutted in the middle of the night and rewritten last week, also forces all early voting sites to open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in all 100 counties.

"We should not disenfranchise our voters in any way," declared state Sen. Joyce Waddell (D-Mecklenburg). This bill unfairly targets poor, working class, and African-American voters."

Other black Democrats, like Rep. H. M. "Mickey" Michaux, Jr. (D-Durham) in the state House, also fumed, especially after noting in debate that the federal courts had struck down the GOP's earlier 2013 voter ID/early voting law, calling it "voter suppression" that targeted poor black voters who may not have photo identification, with "surgical precision."

Michaux repeated the "suppression" charge, as he blasted House Republican colleagues.

Republicans bristled at that ruling then, now insisting that all they are trying to do is bring uniformity to early voting. And per the new voter ID bill the GOP has introduced, North Carolinians want the integrity of the voting process protected, they still insist.

That's what white Republican leaders said, but what do black Republicans think about these new efforts to reinstitute voter ID photo restrictions and change early voting scheduling?

Immanuel Jarvis, an African-American; Queens, NY native; and member of the NC Human Relations Commission, is also the chairman of the Durham County Republican Party, though he is quick to insist that he does not speak for all black Republicans, only for himself.

Jarvis was dismissive of Democratic arguments that voter ID and changes to early voting scheduling would hurt black voters.

"Both of these pieces of legislation are non-issues," Jarvis told The Carolina Times. "I don't know why, we, black folks, have come to believe that [we're] so stupid...we're not stupid. We have ID's. We have them if we go to the bank. If someone asks you, you have to show one."

"It's funny that for anything

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IMMANUEL JARVIS



DR. ADA M. FISHER



Prof. Melissa Harris-Perry
Photo Courtesy Melissa Harris-Perry Website

Melissa Harris-Perry Announced as DCABP's Keynote Speaker

Harris-Perry will speak at the organization's 83rd Founders Day Gala August 25th

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People has announced their speaker for the 2018 Founders' Day Gala, to be held Saturday, August 25th, at the Durham Convention Center (301 W Morgan St, Durham, NC 27701). This year's theme is "Ignited by Legacy. Driven by Purpose." Each year, the gala honors people in the black community who advocate for and advance the community, who impact the direction of the community, and who elevates the community by achieving greatness in their respective fields.

Professor Melissa Harris-Perry is the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University. There she is founding director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center and co-director of Wake the Vote. Melissa is editor-at-large of Elle.com and a contributing editor at The Nation. Along with Dorian Warren, Harris-Perry is principal and co-host of Freedom on Tap, an independent media project combining live events, digital, and audio content. From 2012-2016 she hosted the television show "Melissa Harris-Perry" on weekend mornings on MSNBC and was awarded the Hillman Prize for broadcast journalism.

"We are looking forward to Mrs. Harris-Perry's keynote address, and to honor her work to elevate the community through her various endeavors," said Joye Speight, of Virtue Events, Inc. who will be planning and designing this year's gala.

This year's honorees are Phil Freelon and Ingrid Wicker-McCree.

As Design Director of the North Carolina practice, Phil Freelon leads both Perkins+Will North Carolina offices in Durham and Charlotte. Freelon is a member of the Board of Directors and a key leader for the firm's cultural and civic practice. Freelon's design achievements include cultural, civic and academic projects for some of America's most respected cultural institutions. In 2011, he was appointed by former President Barack Obama to the National Commission of Fine Arts. Freelon is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) and a recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture. In 2017, he was named one of Fast Company's most creative people in business.

Ingrid Wicker-McCree was appointed as the Director of Athletics at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in 2008, and was one of the driving forces behind NCCU's reclassification to NCAA Division I. In 2014, she received the NCAA Division I FCS Administrator of the Year Award, and was inducted into the IAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame in February 2016. She was appointed to the board of advisors for the Center for Research in Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2017, she was named to the NCAA Division I Council. Wicker-McCree is the first coach in NCCU history to win conference championships in multiple sports.

Tickets for the event are on sale now. Tickets must be purchased online via Eventbrite. For those desiring to purchase tickets in person, DCABP has set up dates for ticket purchases at their office (601 Fayetteville St. Suite 200) from 10am to 1pm. Dates for ticket pickup are July 14, and August 4. The deadline for ticket purchase is August 20. No tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Early ticket purchase is suggested as the event sells out every year.

Audio Confirms Officers Conspired To Coverup Assault

By Cash Michaels
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First there was dashcam video showing at least two North Carolina State troopers, and a Wake County Sheriff's deputy with a K-9 dog attacking Kyrion Dwain Hinton on the night of April 4th in Raleigh.

Hinton, the video shows, was unarmed, even though officers at the scene were told that he was before they arrived.

The 29-year-old black man sustained a broken nose, fractured eye socket, and several dog bite injuries after the encounter, and spent three days in the hospital before being transported to the Wake County jail. Charges against him were eventually dropped.

The two troopers, Michael G. Blake, and Tabithia L. Davis, an African-American; along with Wake Sheriff's Deputy Cameron Broadwell, were indicted for felonies by a Wake County grand jury May 15th for their alleged excessive force on Hinton, which included beating him with their flashlights, and unleashing the K-9 dog on the unarmed man.



KYRON DWAIN HINTON

But now, according to published reports, there is also audio from the dashcam recording from another patrol vehicle on the scene that purportedly reveals that a Highway Patrol supervisor, Sgt. Rodney W. Goswick, may have advised troopers Davis and Blake to lie about the use of force in the incident in their official reports.

An SBI affidavit, presented in Wake Superior Court last Friday, confirms that Sgt. Goswick told the troopers that he had reviewed the video of their confrontation with Hinton, and that "no use of force was evident."

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Michael G. Blake, and Tabithia L. Davis, an African-American; along with Wake Sheriff's Deputy Cameron Broadwell

