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## What Happens Next In NC-NAACP Allegations Drama?

By Cash Michaels  
CashWorks Media

According to those who attended last weekend's 76th Annual NC NAACP Convention in Winston-Salem, it was memorable, but for the most part, for all of the wrong reasons.

What normally and annually is an exercise for attendees in reaffirming the basic principles of the state's oldest, and foremost civil rights organization, was instead, according to some who attended last weekend's three-day session, a tense affair involving factions, accusations, anger and uncertainty.

So much so that Derrick Johnson, the president/CEO of the national NAACP, personally came down from his Baltimore, Md. headquarters, to address the North Carolina membership Saturday, reminding all that they were "family," not to speak with the media, and that the enemies of equality and racial justice would like nothing better than to see the NAACP - even in North Carolina - be ripped apart, and rendered ineffective as the crucial 2020 elections approach.

The cause for all of this unbridled angst? Reverberations from troubling allegations of sexual harassment against one of the state NAACP's former top administrators, Rev. Curtis Gatewood.

It was two weeks ago that former state chapter Youth Director Jazmyne Childs, surrounded by supporters, including former NC NAACP Pres. Rev. Dr. William Barber, held a press conference, publicly accusing Rev. Gatewood of sexually harassing her as her supervisor in 2017.

Gatewood emphatically denied her charges, but during the course of a five-month investigation of Ms. Childs' complaint, Gatewood resigned. The investigation revealed evidence that Ms. Childs' was telling the truth, NAACP officials say. However, despite repeated urgings by Rev. Barber and the state

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Music and dance was features at PhoenixFest 2019. See photos on page 9.



NAACP National Pres./CEO Derrick Johnson (L) posing with NC NAACP Pres. Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman at the Saturday session of the NC NAACP Convention. (Photo by Ivan Saul Cutler of the Greensboro NAACP.)

## Juror: Botham Jean wouldn't have wanted 'harsh vengeance'

DALLAS (AP) - Two members of the jury that convicted a white Dallas police officer of murder in the fatal shooting of her black neighbor said the diverse panel tried to consider what the victim would have wanted when they settled on a 10-year prison sentence.

Prosecutors had asked jurors to sentence Amber Guyger to 28 years, which was how old her neighbor Botham Jean would have been if he was still alive. But one of the two jurors - a white man who wasn't named by ABC News - said the jury was moved by testimony from Jean's family and friends, who described his deep faith and caring nature.

"We all agree that (the shooting) was a mistake, and I don't think Bo would want to take harsh vengeance," the juror said, referring to Jean by his nickname. "I think he would want to forgive her."

Guyger shot Jean inside his own apartment in September 2018 after working a long shift. She said she mistook his fourth-floor unit for her own, which was directly below his.

The other juror who spoke to ABC News - a black woman - said her reaction when hearing prosecutors' sentencing request was: "I can't give her 28 years."

"I know a lot of people are not happy about the 10 years," she said. "But I felt like ... this case was not like any other case."

She drew distinctions between the death of Jean and those of other unarmed black men who have been killed by police in recent years.

"Those officers that killed unarmed black men, when they got out, they went back to living their lives," she said. "Amber Guyger, ever since she killed that man, she has not been the same. She showed remorse and that she's going to have to deal with that for the rest of her life."

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REV. CURTIS GATEWOOD

## Ex-NAACP leader 'deeply sorry,' but denies sexual assault

By Martha Waggoner

RALEIGH (AP) - A former North Carolina NAACP leader has softened his denial of sexual misconduct accusations, saying that while he never intentionally harassed anyone, he realized his actions "may have been received as sexual."

In a written statement to The Associated Press, the Rev. Curtis Gatewood said he was "deeply sorry" for the way his actions were perceived. While denying any kind of sexual assault or intentional sexual harassment, Gatewood wrote in Tuesday's (Oct. 1) MDNM statement that he didn't "deny the feelings of my accusers."

"While I know I had no sexual intentions toward my accusers, the thought that either woman felt even slightly uncomfortable in the workplace is unfortunate," he said.

No criminal charges have been filed.

Two women have accused Gatewood of inappropriate behavior or sexual harassment. The accusations have spurred questions about whether a nationwide policy on sexual harassment is overdue for the NAACP. They also come amid the (hash)MeToo movement, which aims to hold accountable those involved in sexual misconduct and those who cover it up.

Gatewood's statement came after the second accuser, Courtney Sebring, published her essay on the Medium website on Friday. Sebring told the AP in a telephone interview Tuesday that she felt compelled to come forward after former state NAACP employee Jazmyne Childs held a news conference on Sept. 24 questioning why the national NAACP did nothing after an outside investigation concluded that her accusations - first made in 2017 - were credible.

"Jazmyne released her story, and I felt so heavy and burdened by this secret," said Sebring, 23. "I know that doing anything to keep Gatewood's secret makes me sick. And I feel stronger now that this is out."

Sebring said she was a 17-year-old summer intern in 2014 when Gatewood's stares and touches made her so uncomfortable that she told her parents and asked the NAACP for help. Gatewood was second vice president at the time, a position he held until 2011, when he became an NAACP staff member.

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## Texas officer says leading man by rope would look 'bad'

By Juan A. Lozano

HOUSTON (AP) - Body camera footage shows a white Texas police officer saying twice that leading a homeless black man by a rope down city streets while he and his partner were on horseback would look "bad."

Two Galveston police officers arrested 43-year-old Donald Neely in August, accusing him of criminal trespass.

Images showing the officers leading Neely caused public outrage, leading to a Texas Rangers investigation and a Galveston County Sheriff's Office review.

In the body camera footage released Oct. 2, Officer Patrick Brosch asks his partner, Officer Amanda Smith, whether she should go get their truck so they don't have to make Neely walk. Smith indicated no.

Brosch can be heard on the video saying, "This is gonna look really bad."

The Texas Rangers determined that the officers didn't break the law.