

# Protests urged for Black Monday

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Cooper's death be in vain. I told (his mother) 'we are not going to let the death of your son go without a response.'

Chavis said a committee including all community groups who want to be involved in the planning would coordinate the event, including the NAACP, which held a separate vigil Sunday at University Park Baptist Church attended by about 50 people. NAACP Southeast Region director Nelson Rivers spoke at that event.

Chavis said efforts will be made to involve Rev. James Samuel, who leads an interracial group of ministers and Rev. James Barnett, leader of the Stop the Killing movement, who angered some blacks with his criticism of protests in the wake of the Cooper shooting Nov. 19.

Black community leaders have called for prosecution of Officer Michael Marlow, who shot Cooper in November, for video cameras in police cars and a citizens review board and an independent prosecutor to investigate police shootings. Citizens for Justice has announced a plan to videotape police who stop motorists and others in the city.

"Of all the cities in the U.S., Charlotte, N.C. has yet to have a major demonstration," said Chavis, former national executive director of the NAACP and a co-convenor of 1995's Million Man March.

Citizens For Justice formed to protest the shooting death on Dec. 27, 1993 of Windy Gail Thompson by Officer Mark

Farmer, who said she was trying to drive away in a wrecked vehicle as he hung halfway inside trying to remove the keys. The car had four flat tires, shattered windows and a broken axle. Thompson had a compound fracture of her right leg.

A civil lawsuit is still pending on behalf of her two children.

A lawsuit is anticipated on behalf of Cooper's 4-year-old daughter, who was in the car Nov. 19 when Marlow shot the unarmed 19-year-old man who, according to Marlow's statement, made a sudden move the officer viewed as threatening.

District Attorney Peter Gilchrist refused to prosecute Farmer and Marlow, who remain on the police force. The officer who shot King in 1989 as he came out of his front door in the Cherry community was dismissed from the police force.

Chavis called the killings "racially motivated police murder of our people."

"We are going to issue a statewide call for black people all over North Carolina (to join the protest)," Chavis said. "I'm going to issue a national call."

He said the planning must include activities for children who are out of school. "I want churches to be open to set up community schools," Chavis said.

The one-day protest would include some kind of mass gathering, but Chavis did not disclose what site is being considered. He said someone needs to secure a parade permit as soon as possible. "We want to be within the law," he said.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

NAACP president Alfred Alexander said the branch has not had time to consider whether it will participate in Black Monday. "They just called for Black Monday last night," Alexander said Monday. "We have not had a meeting to decide whether or not to participate."

He said the NAACP is concentrating on its task force to look into the internal operations of police department, fire department and sheriff's department with regard to hiring, promotions and working conditions. That task force was formed in response to the Cooper shooting.

"We applaud the efforts of Brother Chavis and Citizens for Justice and anyone who tries to solve the problem," Alexander said.

Success of the Black Monday effort "depends on the commitment of the people as it relates to the subject matter," Alexander said.

"It is hard to put your finger on the mindset of the community," he said. "I hope it will be widely participated in because that is the only way it will be successful."

Bob Davis, president of the Black Political Caucus, attended the Citizens for Justice program and said he supported Chavis' call for Black Monday.

"For the first time in a long time I was impressed with Ben Chavis and what he had to say," said Davis, who attended the Million Man March. "He was not rabble-rousing. I as chair of the Black Caucus fully support the Black Monday event."

Davis said the full caucus has

not met to discuss the event.

The demonstration, if successful, would be the largest ever in Charlotte, Davis said.

"The idea has been advanced in smaller groups, but nothing like this has ever come off since I have been here, and I have been here 67 years," he said.

"I would hasten to say we haven't had the kind of national leadership that Ben can bring to this citywide event," Davis said. "He did organize the Million Man March, which I attended. And he has that ability to pull people together."

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# Karenga marks holiday's 30th

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dren for promises made and kept.

A community celebration is held each year in Charlotte at the Afro-American Cultural Center.

He asked that there be no apologies for Kwanzaa celebrations, noting that no one questions holidays of other ethnic groups and cultures.

"Kwanzaa is essentially about family, community and culture," Karenga said, listing and reemphasizing the seven principles of the Nguzo Saba around which Kwanzaa is celebrated. The principles are: Umoja or unity; Kujichagulia or self-determination; Ujima, collective work and responsibility; Ujamaa, cooperative economics; Nia, purpose; Kuumba, creativity; and Imani, faith.

Karenga said 20 million people celebrate Kwanzaa around the world. "They did it them-

selves," he said. "They didn't ask for legislation, no government funds and they didn't ask the media to broadcast it."

This Kwanzaa season comes at a "critical time in our history as a people," Karenga said, pointing to increasing cynicism and uncertainty and "decreasing concern for the vulnerable."

"The politicians blame the poor for the problems they (the politicians) created," Karenga said.

"There is an impoverished sense of the possible. People don't believe anything is possible."

Following the principles of Kwanzaa are the keys to positive action and results, Karenga said. "The best prayer is righteous practice," he admonished the audience. "What you want to do for God, do for each other. God doesn't need you. Others do."

He attacked television talk shows and their African

American guests for "turning our private pain into public spectacle for the entertainment of our oppressors."

He took a stab at Shaquille O'Neal and Michael Jordan for recent movies, O'Neal as a "Genie to a little white boy," and Jordan as "second fiddle to Bugs Bunny."

"We have been reduced to nothing but maids, mascots and minstrels," Karenga said.

African Americans must ask themselves three questions, he said: "Who am I? Am I really who I am? Am I all I want to be?"

"Build the world you would live in," Karenga said. "We are not just in history, we are history. Each day is a donation to the future."

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adding that video could help tell an accurate story when officers stop suspects. Equipping cars with video cameras could cost up to \$1,000 per unit.

Citizens groups have already begun campaigns to videotape police stops throughout

Charlotte to ensure the safety of suspects and officers alike. Police officials haven't discouraged the plan, although they warn amateur photographers that they'll be asked to move back or stop filming if their presence interferes with officers' ability to make arrests or endangers them.

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