

# McKinney urged to move past incident

**Continued from page 1A**  
 Bush Administration knew in advance about the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and may have benefited from it. She later recanted saying she had no proof of her allegation.

In the latest debacle, she accused a white police officer of "inappropriate touching" and racial profiling after a March 29 incident in which

the unidentified officer allegedly grabbed her when she bypassed a metal detector. Members of Congress are not required to pass through the detectors. However, McKinney was not wearing her lapel pin, identifying her as a member. She has also recently changed her hairstyle from her trademark two braids to a loose natural.

"There are only 14 African-American women members of Congress. So I don't understand what it is about my face that certain members of the Capitol Hill Police Department can't remember," McKinney said on CNN with Wolf Blitzer in an interview following the incident.

The congresswoman allegedly struck the officer with her cell phone in reaction to his touch after she failed to stop.

A federal grand jury will decide whether to charge her with a crime. No decision was made by NNPA deadline. Capitol Police spokeswoman Sgt. Kimberly Snider said the police was still reviewing McKinney's statements on the House floor.

After a whirlwind of press conferences, news appearances and interviews, McKinney apologized on the House floor April 6.

"I come before this body to personally express again my sincere regret about the encounter with the Capitol Hill Police," she said. "There should not have been any

physical contact in this incident. I have always supported law enforcement and will be voting for H Res 756, expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. I am sorry that this misunderstanding happened at all and I regret its escalation. And I apologize."

In her carefully-crafted statement, McKinney bemoans "physical contact" but did not directly admit her complicity.

McKinney did not return repeated phone calls from the NNPA News Service.

A police officer for 21 years before retiring and winning a seat in the Georgia State legislature, Billy McKinney says he was one of those who advised his daughter to apologize.

"We want to end this and go on," he says.

# Blacks miss out on more jobs

**Continued from page 1A**  
 Anderson. "Employment of illegal immigrants has made a significant dent in the nation's population. Because of this, African-American leadership, for the most part, is silent and conflicted on this matter."

According to the Census Bureau's Center for Immigration report of 2004, of the 4.2 million immigrants entering the United States between 2000 and 2004, 50 percent are illegal aliens.

In addition, since 1970, sub-Saharan Africans have accounted for less than 2 percent of legal immigrants. By comparison, Mexican immigrants constituted 28 percent over the same period.

According to numbers gathered by the Pew Research Center, more than 11 million illegal immigrants lived in America in 2005, a 185 percent rise from more than a generation ago.

The origins of where they come from point to primarily Spanish-speaking countries. Seventy-eight percent of illegal immigrants come from Latin America, and 56 percent of them are Mexicans living full-time in America.

Out of a total workforce of 148 million Americans, it is estimated that almost 5 percent of all workers in the United States are earning salaries illegally.

Professor George Borjas, an economist from Harvard, did research that showed whether legally or illegally, working immigrants reduced wages of American-born citizens over the last 25 years.

These numbers don't bode well for Blacks, according to African-American Chamber of Commerce chairman A. Bruce Crawley. In a statement, Crawley spoke out against Philadelphia City Councilman Jim Kenney's immigration bill.

"The Center for Immigration Studies, through a Census Bureau derived report concluded any negative effect from immigration will fall on the 26 million native-born workers in the U.S. who already have the lowest wages and highest unemployment," said Crawley.

"Additional data states 40 percent of native-born Blacks work in high-immigrant occupations - cleaning, food preparation, manufacturing and transportation - this, in comparison to 22.9 percent of whites in the same fields.

"So, without question, Blacks are much more likely to be affected by any decline in wages or benefits resulting from immigrant-induced increase in the labor force."

While discrimination maybe the best explanation for persistent Black unemployment, Anderson implies a more consistently sinister scenario.

"Arguably the most racist policy in this country for the past quarter century has been that of immigration," Anderson said. "An onslaught of poorly educated, mostly Hispanic immigrants has severely hindered attempts of African-Americans to climb up the economic ladder."

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