

## Sacramento

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Contact:

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Re: CA Legislative Black Caucus Supports the Greater Sacramento NAACP in Their Demands for a Sacramento County Investigation of Law Enforcement Misconduct

The Greater Sacramento NAACP is pleased to have the support of Assemblymember Steven Bradford and the CA Legislative Black Caucus as we use this moment to recognize that social media messaging is used as a pathway to perpetuate racism while also exposing those who use racism in their positions of power.

Rancho Cordova's Chief Adams had a responsibility to stand against racism and bias. Instead, what has been communicated to the GSNAACP is a person who finds the historic and traumatizing use of hoses against Black people a mockery. Even worse, the image with the caption shows precisely how little Black children are thought of in a country where white supremacy dominates cultures of law enforcement. And later, that same culture in law enforcement is used consciously and unconsciously to criminalize our youth.

Sacramento County jails are 40% Black while the population is barely 11%. Our youth injustice system reflects similarly. We must transform our systems of punishment—law enforcement being one of those systems. Until we hold white people accountable for perpetuating cultures of racism and white supremacy, we cannot change mass incarceration, poverty, and education opportunity. Supporting legislation is one lever to change these devastatingly harmful structures.

CA passed the Racial Justice Act in 2020, a law that should be used in this investigation. There is an opportunity to bolster that law with 2022's AB 256. And there is one law, SB 2 that speaks directly to the current situation. Senator Bradford previously described the passing of SB 2, "California and the nation as a whole has experienced tragedy after tragedy where consequences for egregious abuses of power went unpunished and cries for accountability went unanswered— eroding public trust in law enforcement. This bill is the first of its kind in California and we finally join the 46 other states with processes for the decertification of bad officers. SB 2 establishes a fair and balanced way to hold officers who break the public trust accountable for their actions and not simply move to a new department. This could not have been achieved without the support of many legislators, community organizations, families, and entertainers who advocated non-stop for accountability in our policing system."

The Greater Sacramento NAACP will continue to expose the foundations and persons behind white supremacy culture. We thank the brave people who continue to offer proof of that harm.