

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Tennessee State Conference of Branches

Gloria J. Sweet-Love, President



July 23, 2013

RE: Opposition of the Implementation of the 287(g) Program in Knox County

Dear Commissioners:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**NAACP**) has a long history of fighting to protect and promote civil rights and social justice. For over 104 years, we have worked to ensure equal treatment, protection under the law and working to end racial profiling and discrimination.

The Tennessee State Conference NAACP is vigorously opposed to any legislation that unfairly targets individuals based on race or national origin. In light of the recent racial profiling and death of an unarmed teenage, Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida the **alarm has sounded once again** calling for us re-energize our efforts to fight legislation similar to the "Stand Your Ground" law. The implementation of programs like 287(g) creates a climate that further criminalizes hardworking members of communities of color and sanctions the unequal treatment of anyone who looks or sounds foreign-born.

Since its inception, the program is flawed and challenges the values of fairness and equality. It also invites disparate treatment and discrimination of minority groups of color and encourages racial profiling. Research has shown that the program lacks proper federal oversight, threatens community safety and hinders community policing by diverting an already reduced local law enforcement agency from their core mission.

The 287(g) program has not proven to be a significant benefit to local law enforcement officials. A prime example of the program's lack of success and obsolete method is illustrated by the program's implementation by the Sheriff Department in Davidson County. The Sheriff's Office used its 287(g) power to apprehend undocumented immigrants driving to work, standing at day labor sites, or while fishing off piers. One pregnant woman---charged with driving without a license---was shackled to her bed during labor.

In a country where racial profiling by law enforcement agents has led to massive arrests of people of color, these efforts to push immigrants into the criminal justice system is not surprising, but absolutely counterproductive to increasing public safety.

On behalf of fairness and equity for all Tennesseans committed to moving Tennessee forward, we urge you to oppose implementation of the 287(g) program in Knox County.

Respectfully,

Gloria J. Sweet-Love

President

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