



FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

2012 –2014 Officers

Adora Obi Nweze
President

Turner Clayton
1st Vice President

Cynthia Slater
2nd Vice President

Don Brown
3rd Vice President

Dale Landry
4th Vice President

Linda Johnson
5th Vice President

Linda Haywood
Secretary

Yvette Gibbs-Mitchell
Assistant Secretary

Marsha Ellison
Treasurer

Juvas Harrington
Assistant Treasurer

Mailing Address:
PO Box 101060
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310

Website:
www.flanaacp.org

March 13, 2012

Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
Becky L. Monroe
Acting Director, Community Relations Service
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001
[by e-mail](#)

Dear General Holder and Ms. Monroe:

RE: Request for the Community Relations Service to Review the Shooting Death
of Unarmed Black Teenager Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida

On behalf of the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches and its Seminole County Branch, I am respectfully requesting the Department, through its Community Relations Service (CRS) to detail personnel to Sanford, FL to review the February 26 shooting death of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin by a self-appointed "neighborhood watch captain," George Zimmerman, and ensure that an impartial and thorough investigation is performed promptly. We also respectfully request a meeting with CRS officials at which we can present our concerns.

Although Mr. Zimmerman has confessed to the shooting, he remains at large and has not been arrested. Members of the community are concerned about their safety and their children's safety.

Trayvon Martin was a star student and athlete and had never been in trouble. When he was shot to death just eight houses away from where he was visiting his relatives, he was "armed" only with a bag of skittles and a can of ice tea.

Press reports have documented that Mr. Zimmerman has a violent history, having been charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence in 2005. Although ostensibly a neighborhood watch volunteer, Mr. Zimmerman was carrying a loaded gun and he reportedly disregard the clear instructions of police on a 911 call not to continue to follow Trayvon.

Not only have there been no charges to date but Police Chief Bill Lee refused to release the 911 tape. Attorneys representing the Martin family had to sue to get the tape.

Some indication of the need for CRS' intervention is apparent from the events of this past Saturday, March 10, when residents of Sanford held a rally at the Sanford Police Department in support of young Trayvon and his family. Not a single police representative or the Chief even acknowledged the residents and their concern that Mr. Zimmerman be arrested in connection with this unarmed teen's death.

Consequently, the NAACP has no confidence that, absent federal oversight, the Sanford Police Department will devote the necessary degree of care to its investigation. We therefore call upon you to detail personnel to Sanford immediately to review the facts, ensure that the Sanford Police Department conducts an impartial, thorough and prompt investigation of the circumstances involving the death of this unarmed teen, and ensure that the responsible person is held accountable if a crime was committed.

Sincerely,

Adora Obi Nweze

Adora Obi Nweze
President