

AL NAACP NEWS

Alabama State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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ALABAMA NAACP & MOBILE COUNTY NAACP BRANCH CALL TO ACTION!

The Alabama NAACP and the Mobile County NAACP Branch, is outraged by the violent and aggressive arrest made by the Saraland Police Department, who received a call from a Waffle House employee prompting three white police officers to treat one of its citizens with the highest degree of disrespect. Early Sunday morning, April 22nd, 2018, police arrive at the Waffle House and tell Chikesia Clemons to get up and come with them. Clemons and her friend were ordering takeout, when Clemons asked an employee for silverware. Clemons did not feel like she was being treated like a customer should and asked for a manager's contact details. Instead, the employee called the police. Clemon's friend videotaped the entire incident where you can hear police tell her to come with them or they are about to break her arm. It is clear from the videotape that Clemons was only asking why she was being arrested which every citizen has a right to know.

How does asking for silverware equal disorderly conduct or resisting arrest? Does this customer not have the right to ask for a manager's contact details if she feels the need to? Instead of the employee providing good customer service, the employee calls the police. Similarly, several weeks ago, an employee calls police at another restaurant.

"Starbucks is shutting down thousands of its stores to educate their employees about racial bias, which the NAACP commends and believes it to be a positive step. But here in Mobile, AL, police are violently arresting a 25-year-old woman, on a charge of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. They man handle, assault, humiliate and expose her private parts publicly and threaten to break the wrist of this customer, who is, by the way, a patron of this restaurant" said David Smith, president of the Mobile County NAACP Branch.

"We are deeply disturbed that the Waffle House would have such poor training that its' employee would call the police on a customer. And to have the audacity to issue a statement, upholding such brutal treatment from police officers of another human being. Police officers escalated a situation that should have instead been de-escalated. Not only do they dishevel and disrobe Clemons, but they violently take her down and even one officer puts her in a choke hold. This is deeply disturbing on all levels," said Benard Simelton, president of the Alabama NAACP.

"Race plays an important factor in the treatment of Ms. Clemons. The headlines would have read much differently if this was a white woman, as a matter of fact, there would be no headlines" added Smith.

The NAACP will continue to issue statements as we receive more information in this case.

- Benard Simelton, President of Alabama NAACP

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For additional information, please contact Patricia Mokolo, Alabama NAACP Communications Chair at [205-632-0580](tel:205-632-0580).

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