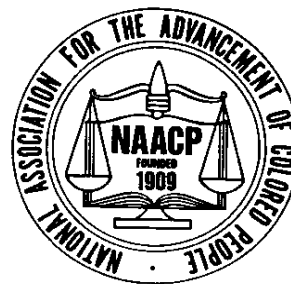


Contact: John E. Jones, President

Fayette County NAACP
Post Office Box 1777
Fayetteville, GA 30214
Phone: 678-575-8166



Press Release

Who Will Replace Post 1 Commissioner Robert Horgan?

Fayette County NAACP Branch commends the Fayette County Sheriff Deputies for doing the right thing and turns focus to who will replace Mr. Horgan when he leaves office.

Fayetteville, June 9, 2009: The most important question that needs to be answered is who will replace Mr. Horgan? The Fayette County government is a strong advocate of a drug free community. The Fayette County Sheriff officers did an outstanding job in rejecting any thought of letting the criminal offence of possession of marijuana go unpunished and carried out their duties especially in this case. Other people in Fayette County have been punished and forced out of school or a job for possession of illegal substances and Mr. Horgan deserves equal treatment. Since the Fayette County government has a well established ethics policy in place and the citizens have the highest expectations for our public servants, isn't it just a matter of time until Mr. Horgan leaves office? Regardless of whatever method eventually leads him to vacate the office, all the citizens of Fayette County will eventually have to choose someone of greater integrity and character to serve Post 1 and other commission seats in the future. If Mr. Horgan or other candidates had undergone drug testing and found to be a drug abuser would they have been elected? Should our politicians have to be tested for drug use or undergo extensive background investigations? Now is the time to take measures to restore dignity to our government.

All of the counties surrounding Fayette County elect their commissioners through a fair and equitable district voting process. However one feels about the at-large voting process that got Mr. Horgan elected, the citizens of Post 1 could have chosen a much better candidate if a district voting process was in use in Fayette County. If necessary, the citizens of Post 1 could also mount a cost effective recall effort as well with district voting. District voting also opens the opportunity for all candidates to wage a less expensive campaign because they only have to campaign in their particular district thus opening the door to citizens with fewer financial resources. Conversely, with at-large voting, every voter in the county can vote for candidates that will represent the other two districts. Why has the county commission or school board refused to change to a district voting process? Could it be to keep better qualified candidates or minorities out?

All citizens are urged to attend the June 11th commission meeting and express their views during the public comment period. Citizen input is necessary to ensure that your commissioner know that we care about our community.

• **For Immediate Release**