



FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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October 6, 2009

Hon. Eric Holder  
Attorney General of the United States  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear General Holder:

The Florida State Conference of Branches of the NAACP respectfully requests that the Department investigate the misconduct of the Daytona Beach Police Department in its handling of recent incidents occurring on the campus of Bethune-Cookman University ("B-CU").

The Police Department's actions include the repeated issuance of inflammatory and racially tinged statements, the issuance of a sham subpoena, and a false statement to the media alleging a cover-up. I am attaching a summary of these incidents.

It is incumbent upon police departments, as representatives of their entire communities, including majority and minority citizens and institutions, to examine the fairness and equity they exhibit when investigating incidents, and to err on the side of caution if statements are issued which could be interpreted as racially inflammatory. The Police Department's misbehavior seriously undermines the public's confidence in law enforcement that is vital to crime control.

As a consequence, we are asking the Department of Justice to determine whether the Police Department conducted its investigations in an equitable manner and without bias or discrimination.

Sincerely,

*Adora Obi Nweze*

Adora Obi Nweze  
President

cc: Julian Bond, Chairman of the Board, NAACP  
Benjamin Jealous, President, NAACP  
Roslyn Brock, Vice Chairman of the Board, NAACP  
Hilary Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau, NAACP  
Angela Ciccolo, Acting General Counsel, NAACP  
Cynthia Slater, President, Daytona Beach Branch, NAACP  
Dr. Dorothy Height, President Emerita - National Council of Negro Women  
Dr. Jerome Del Pino, General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education,  
Ministry of the United Methodist Church