



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE-ATLANTA BRANCH  
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### ***Atlanta NAACP president issues a rare repudiation of a political candidate***

As president of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, I strive to continue the national association's historical mission: to advocate for first-class citizenship for people of color. Founded as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909, the initial focus was on voting rights, education, economic opportunity, equal justice, and an end to legalized segregation. Our mission has grown to encompass safe and affordable housing, accessible and affordable healthcare, and environmental justice.

In short, we take on all issues that hinder progress toward the fair and just advancement of people of color.

As a nonpartisan agency, the NAACP typically refrains from endorsing a political party or speaking out about a specific candidate. Today, I am breaking that tacit protocol. To do anything less would be an abdication of my mission to help move Atlanta forward, not backward. I specifically encourage all Atlanta voters to consider the following:

- During the Kasim Reed administration, the movement toward safe, affordable housing came to a screeching halt. Because of his actions, no units were planned since the administration of Shirley Franklin. Instead, generous tax benefits flowed to help finance upper income condominiums and rental units along the Beltline and downtown. New college graduates from Tech, the AUC, Emory, and Georgia State can hardly afford to live in Atlanta.
- Because of the machinations of the Reed administration, the gleaming new Mercedes Benz stadium pays no property taxes yet consumes substantial city services and police protection. If taxed appropriately, an estimated \$12 million could benefit Atlanta's K-12 school children in addition to county and city coffers.
- Mr. Reed has announced the endorsement of the police union IPBO, a group that has never acknowledged police misconduct, no matter how egregious. Because of its policies and practices, most Black police officers are not members of that union. One retired Black APD sergeant calls the IPBO "the Klan."
- Notably, Mr. Reed did not embrace President Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Policy that, if implemented, might have saved Black lives. There were 7 police killings of unarmed Blacks during the Reed administration and another 4 since.
- Prime Black-owned property was fair game for Atlanta's agencies under Kasim Reed, in Black neighborhoods and the Atlanta University Center. Reed wasted taxpayer dollars trying to wrest Clark Atlanta and Morris Brown land away, a fight that diverted substantial funds from their educational mission of educating Black students.

And there's more.

- Corruption appeared to be rampant under Mr. Reed with a reported 7 indictments and convictions, including chief financial officer Jim Beard. His lawyers claim that Mr. Reed is no longer under investigation, but we have heard no such declaration from the U. S Attorney's office. Documents from the ongoing investigation point directly to personal expenditures, some since reimbursed.
- Atlanta, touted as the cradle of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, has been silent on the issue of Confederate monuments and other traitorous honorariums around the city. Not a single monument was moved or removed under Kasim Reed, despite the national movement acknowledging the white supremacist messaging and symbolism, and progress on removing them in other cities.

Atlanta can and must do better than elect Kasim Reed again. Thirteen other candidates are running, some with proven leadership ability and political experience and none with a record of administrative corruption.

Please educate yourself on their records. Let's choose wisely.



Richard Rose  
President  
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