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Oakland County Deputy Disgusting Act of Racism

An Oakland County Deputy was fired for 'what some call' a racist Facebook post. Several pumpkin carvings represented Trump, Pence and Biden and one watermelon was carved with the name of (Vice President Elect) Kamala Harris. It is hard to see this as anything other than a racist act associated with racial hate and bigotry which intended or unintended promotes hate, distrust and ignorance. Racists stereotypes of Black people in America has a long and pervasive history. They were created and used by racist white supremist who for centuries have attempted to cast a demeaning and degrading image of Black people. Like so many racist symbols, the 'watermelon' with carved exaggerated features is one intended to promote a perception of Black people as buffoons with big appetites quite content to eat watermelon and smile.

The straight-out racist act of an Oakland County Deputy displaying for show on a Facebook page reflects the type of racial intimidation African-Americans face daily. The common occurrence of racist behaviour is amplified by this appalling act, committed at the hands and at the will of those entrusted with public safety in our communities; it has been tolerated in Oakland County policing and law enforcement for too long. It needs to be addressed by Sheriff Bouchard, police departments, elected officials and all citizens of our community. These not so subtle racial incidents should never be given credence by ignoring the disgusting platform of racism for which it was intended.

The apparatus that allows law enforcement to continually engage in racist acts and behaviour against our community will not be tolerated. This represents the contentious marginalization of our communities and the serious, systemic nature of racism allowed to fester in the community. We must all speak with a loud voice to condemn all racially motivated acts. That is why we send a clear and strong message; we remain persistent in our demands and tirelessly work for substantive change in public safety. When we fight, we win.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Spears Boothe, President
Northern Oakland County Branch NAACP