



NAACP, Philadelphia Branch

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September 21, 2018

Dear members of City Council and the City:

We are writing now to appeal to the heart of every member of City Council. Honoring former Mayor W. Wilson Goode, I'm sure looks harmless on the surface. Nevertheless, as we hear cries from pain felt by many who cannot separate the honoring one as dishonoring the lives of others, lives lost mind you under the Goode administration. The people's outrage is justifiable, creditable, legitimate and rational.

Certainly, the former Mayor has been honored numerous times since serving as Mayor and each ceremony to my knowledge, went without protest. Why this time? Why now? Because once the former Mayor is lifted by the City he once governed, it devalues the lives of those lost under the government he served over. The members of MOVE that died that horrible day in such a inhumane fashion were citizens of our city and members of the human family. There is no way to disassociate a chief executive officer of the city from his appointees nor their actions. The Mayor is the face of their administration and unfortunately bear the weight of the actions of that administration. Celebrating the former Mayor at the city level celebrates the scope of his tenure and the administration he shaped. Failure to pull this legislation compounds the problem, further opens the wound and takes from those that died, their worth.

Our appeal is a call for legislation that will reverse what has happened, like civil rights gains rolled back. This will take great courage to right a wrong. Our stand is not against Wilson Goode but a strong stand for John Africa and the MOVE family who are not here to stand for themselves.

"The repayment for our labor is equity and justice for all, so we stand against all forms of injustice."

Sincerely

Rodney Muhammad President

NAACP Philadelphia

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