

The CV Drum

The monthly news beat and photo album of African-American Communities in Northern California's Mid-Central Valley+

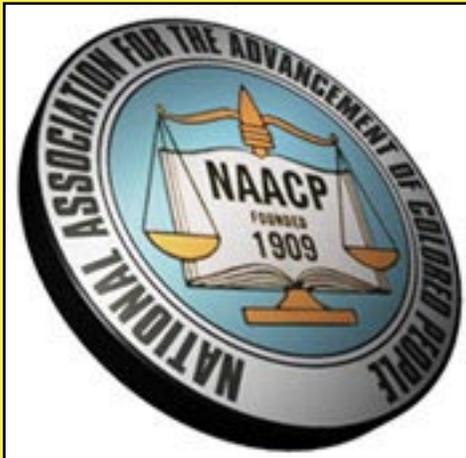


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The Modesto/Stanislaus NAACP Calls for Federal Investigation



The Modesto/Stanislaus NAACP calls for a federal investigation into the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department use of tasers and into the deaths of three inmates who died while in custody [during 2009].

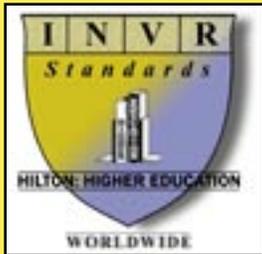
"There is a need for an independent investigation of a higher authority with subpoena powers in order to get to the bottom of why so many people are dying while in police custody. A due process should take place to hold offenders accountable, but it shouldn't result in a death sentence before even making it to trial. It raises grave concerns that all three died 'after' being tasered," stated **Wendy Byrd**, President of the Modesto/Stanislaus NAACP (pictured below).

Over the past several months, the Modesto/Stanislaus NAACP has conducted three Community Town Hall meetings and participated in three roundtable meetings with the leadership of local law enforcement, the District Attorney's

Office, the California Highway Patrol and a Department of Justice Community Liaison representative to discuss allegations of excessive force in Stanislaus County.

In light of the deaths in association with tazing, the NAACP will now file a formal complaint with the Department of Justice and the Stanislaus County Grand Jury to thoroughly investigate this matter. The National Office of the NAACP has also developed a new Rapid Reporting System that allows citizens from any state to submit information directly to the national office. Go to www.naacp.org for more information.

In addition, the Modesto, Stockton and Sacramento Branches of the NAACP and the West Modesto/King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative will sponsor a Citizen's Know Your Rights Workshop on Saturday, October 17, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at the King Kennedy Center, 601 Martin Luther King in Modesto. Attorneys from the Wiley W. Manual Bar Association of Sacramento will be the presenters. The workshop is free and open to the public.



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