

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons, and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

NAACP

Worcester, MA Branch

Worcester Branch NAACP Calls for Support of Public Servants, Transparency and Accountability in Policing

February 20, 2026

The Worcester Branch of the NAACP reaffirms its unwavering support for the dedicated public servants who strive to make Worcester a better place to live, work, and visit. We recognize the vital contributions of police officers who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our community, and we believe that all officers deserve to return to their families safely each day.

However, we are alarmed by recent statements that undermine the call for transparency and accountability in our policing practices. A troubling press release has suggested that public officials advocating for accountability should recuse themselves from matters related to policing. We find this position contrary to the principles of good governance and community trust that our elected officials should uphold.

On December 9, 2024, the Department of Justice released a report indicating that the Worcester Police Department (WPD) lacks adequate internal mechanisms for handling misconduct. In response, the Worcester city manager engaged the Worcester Regional Research Bureau (WRRB) to conduct research on policing, specifically regarding civilian review boards. On October 14, 2025, the WRRB presented a report advocating for a civilian review board—an essential step toward ensuring accountability and transparency.

We urge every city councilor who values fairness and equity to fulfill their duty to serve our community without wavering. We need representatives who will champion the principles of transparency and give a voice to the people. Strong, principled voices are necessary in the city council—voices that will not compromise when it comes to integrity and justice.

The Worcester Branch NAACP believes that no member of the city council wishes harm upon any public servant, including our police officers. We implore all councilors to stand firm in support of their colleagues and advocate for a more transparent and accountable policing system.

Together, we can foster a community built on trust, equity, and safety for all.

Regards,

Fred Taylor

Worcester Branch NAACP President