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ACTIVIST MOBILIZING AT MAIN BRANCH OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

LAFAYETTE, LA (January 31, 2021) — Stand Black and the NAACP, who are partnering on this voting rights issue, are deeply disturbed by the decision recently made by the Lafayette Parish Library Board of Control. An [article](#) dated January 29, 2021, indicated a decision by members of the Library Board of Control to deny a Professor of African-American History from doing a grant-funded presentation regarding voting-rights suppression in the United States.

According to this article Members of the Library Board of Control called the speakers, “extremely far left-leaning” and further indicated that “we need to represent our constituents.” They further espoused the position that the conversation on voter right suppression did not provide “both sides” of the conversation. In order to be crystal clear, there are not two sides to this discussion. There has been a well-documented history of voter suppression of Black People in this country. Make no mistake that the “our constituents” that are being referred to are people that believe in continuing to marginalize minority communities.

“Louisiana has a repugnant history of manipulating the truth of racism and bigotry. It is time that we now move henceforth to tackle these issues head-on. We will not continue to sit silently while a small contingent of racists and bigots perpetuate conspiracy theories,” said Jamal Taylor Co-Founder of Stand Black and Louisiana NAACP Chair of the Education Committee.

On the cusp of Black History month, we will not allow the history of John Lewis, and other activists, who got beaten crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge to have their legacy diminished in Lafayette, Louisiana. We will be mobilizing at the Library Board of Control meeting on the 15th of February at the Main Branch of the Library. We encourage all those able to stand on the right side of justice to attend. Voting rights are not an option; they are a Constitutional mandate that will not be manipulated in Lafayette.

Jamal Taylor
Co-Founder, Stand Black
Chair, Louisiana NAACP Education Committee

Marja Broussard
District D Vice President, NAACP Louisiana State Conference

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