



University of Alabama in Huntsville Chapter - NAACP

On October 3, 2020, a high school student was pulled over by a UAHPD officer for a broken tail light. The UAHPD officer then asked the student to step out of the car and began searching him and his vehicle while referring to the student as “brother.” The student was also asked several times if he had marijuana, cocaine, and a dead prostitute in the car. All of this was done without probable cause for the officer. Following this incident, the university waited 12 days to release a statement that does not address the underlying issues regarding the UAH Police Department. Since the October 3rd incident, more students have come forward, via social media, explaining similar interactions and discontent with the UAH Police Department and their misconduct. One student reported being followed home and forced to take a breathalyzer test without making any traffic violations prior. This October 3rd incident has now revealed a pattern of UAH Police misconduct and university inaction. The University of Alabama in Huntsville’s NAACP Chapter is alarmed by the university’s response to the October 3rd incident involving a UAH Police Department police officer.

Currently, the university has refused to comment on whether the officer involved in the October 3rd incident was disciplined, but UAH students, faculty, and staff have the right to be informed of any disciplinary action that was given by the university to the officer in question because of the high level of responsibility in safety and security that the UAHPD possesses on campus. Students, faculty, and staff should also be informed of the specific additional training that university officers will undergo.

Moving forward, the UAH NAACP demands that disciplinary action be administered on the officer in question, in order to show our UAH community that the UAH Police Department is held accountable for their actions. The officers’ actions misrepresent UAH’s core values which include, Integrity and Respect, Diligence and Excellence, and Inclusiveness and Diversity. The UAH NAACP also demands that UAH students should have the ability to anonymously report police misconduct that may be received by a council composed of students, faculty, and staff in order to provide more accountability for the police officers that represent UAH. These immediate actions are necessary so that we may find it easier to come together as a community in these divisive times. Our chapter hopes to receive a response and plan of action from the UAH president regarding the UAH Police Department’s future changes.

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Nicole Trayvick, **Event Coordinator**
Alencia Hall, **LGBTQ+**
Tymiah Chamblin, **Ministry**
Deontris Coleman, **Public Affairs**

CONTACT: UAHNAACP@UAH.EDU
