



**National Association for The Advancement of Colored People**  
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<https://naACP-oc.org/>

## **THE ORANGE COUNTY NAACP-OC BRANCH BREAKS ITS SILENCE**

The call for the Orange County Prosecutor, Todd Spitzer's resignation has been made by members of his own department, other prosecutors in neighboring counties, and the State President of the NAACP. Until this time the OC Branch of the NAACP has stood in solidarity with those who have made their voices public but made no public statement.

The OC Branch has been overseeing and attending the ongoing Court Hearings of several people of color facing prosecution in this County. In each case, the defendants were overcharged and falsely accused of many charges brought against them because the police kept hidden or distorted the facts at the time of their arrest. Some of them were held in jail for an excessively prolonged period of time because their bail was set far beyond a limit that fits their actual offense. In our ongoing efforts to address these issues with the prosecutor, members of this branch have been reluctant to make a public statement.

Now, members of the OC Branch fear remaining silent publicly leads to a misconception about our position. We know Black people in this county are not treated fairly according to the law. Signing off on police reports that leave out critical evidence in the case of the accused person is a strategy but not a legal one.

We also know that the majority of the citizens of OC are unaware of the many disparities a Black person faces if accused of the same or similar offenses as a white counterpart in this county. We certainly know that leaders of organizations who are not directly involved in monitoring the need for fairness and justice for all people of this county, regardless of race, seem to have no awareness of the complexities that citizens of diverse backgrounds face if they become entangled in the justice system in this county.

Therefore, we stand in solidarity with, The NAACP CA/HI President, Rick Callender, who recently held an interview with the OC Watch, stating his awareness of the Orange County District Attorney's comments on Black men and his prosecution of Black people in this county. We invite you to come and join the NAACP, as we try to bring changes that create fairness for all in OC.

Remember, "We are stronger together"

Respectfully,

Wellington "Coach" Bennett, President

David Drakeford, Criminal Justice Committee Chairman