



Atlantic County Prosecutor William Reynolds' Response to NAACP Press Conference

In 2022, I was nominated by Governor Murphy and confirmed by the NJ Senate to be the Atlantic County Prosecutor. Upon taking my oath, I swore to uphold the laws of the State of New Jersey and the United States, and I intend to keep doing so with integrity and independence.

With respect to any allegation that this Office sought to silence Commissioner Days, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office raised a potential conflict of interest based solely on the charging and indictment of the Commissioner's daughter. It was, and remains, the responsibility of the Commissioner and the Solicitor to the Board of County Commissioners to determine whether it is appropriate for the Commissioner to vote on any resolution touching upon the Prosecutor's Office, and that precautionary step of raising the conflict had nothing to do with politics or race, but rather reflected this Office's obligation.

The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office rejects any further allegation that its decisions are driven by political or racial considerations. In the prosecution of the Mayor of Atlantic City, this office received a referral from a State agency, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, which we are required and obligated under the law to investigate. We proceeded with the investigation based upon the victim's statements, audio recordings, contemporaneous statements by the victim and defendants, photographs, and expert opinions of child abuse. In specifically addressing Counselman Kaleem Shabazz's allegation that the plea offer to Mayor Small required his removal from office as a condition from our office, is not accurate. It is a requirement under **New Jersey statute** that any person convicted of a crime of the third-degree or higher, **must forfeit public office**.

With respect to the delay in dismissal of the charges against the Superintendent and Principal, we are required by the New Jersey Victim Bill of Rights to meet with and consult victims of crimes prior to any disposition. We had the first opportunity to meet with the victim during the week of January 12, 2026, and ultimately dismissed both cases that same week.

Additionally, this Office filed a pre-trial motion directly addressing and challenging any claim of targeted or discriminatory prosecution. That motion was granted by the Court after the defendant, through counsel Lou Barbone, **conceded that the defense had no credible evidence asserting that the prosecution was politically or racially motivated**.

Our obligation is, and always has been, to uphold the rule of law with integrity, fairness, and independence, regardless of who is on the other side of an investigation or prosecution. Every decision is guided by the evidence, the law, and our responsibility to victims, with justice pursued in whatever form the facts and circumstances require.

Since June of 2022 this administration has maintained consistent and meaningful engagement with the community, including homeless outreach efforts, Clean and Safe meetings, and educational programs in schools addressing social media awareness, internet safety, and drunk and distracted driving.

That work has been recognized across diverse communities through awards and partnerships, including honors from the Atlantic City Chapter of the NAACP, Crime Stoppers of the Year, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the Envision Center for Cybersecurity, the Crisis Intervention Team Community Partner of the Year, the Special Services School District of Atlantic County Community Partner of the Year, the Community Partner of the Year for the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and Prosecutor of the Year recognition from the Muslim American Law Enforcement Association.

This Office remains committed to performing all of its functions with the highest level of integrity, public safety, community trust, and the equal application of the law for all.