

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“NAACP PROVIDENCE NAACP ENGAGES THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (NABLEO) CONDUCT STUDY OF
POLICE RECRUITING IN RHODE ISLAND”**

Study To Consider Issues Relating To Recruiting of Minorities For Law Enforcement Positions
in Rhode Island

Research has consistently shown that African Americans and Latino's are severely under-represented in the profession of law enforcement. As well, one of the specific underlying factors noted in conjunction with recent issues in Ferguson, MO was the fact that, of a 53 member police department only three were of African American descent, even though the overall demographics of the community was approximately two-thirds African American. This deficiency in agency diversity has also been found to exist in numerous agencies across the country and throughout the State of Rhode Island, even while it has been successfully argued that special recruiting strategies aimed at minorities may result in significant increases in the number of qualified applicants without increasing the number of unqualified ones. And n

It is with this in mind that the **NAACP Providence Branch** has engaged the assistance of the **National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NABLEO)**, a premier national organization representing the interests and concerns of African American, Latino and other criminal justice practitioners of color serving in law enforcement, corrections, and investigative agencies throughout the United States, and the communities in which they serve to conduct a two-pronged review of recruiting practices within the Rhode Island law enforcement structure. **NABLEO** will conduct both a survey of all law enforcement agencies to determine the number of minority officers employed, how recruiting information is published and disseminated, and the strength of outreach measures used to notify possible candidates, as well as a training program to be offered to both law enforcement and community members on enhanced methods for recruiting qualified candidates of color.

Recent events have highlighted the efficacy and need for the recruitment, hiring, promotion and retention of qualified African American and Latino men and women as members of those agencies that are sworn to provide the community with protection and safety. These same events have also shown the need for increased community contact and participation in the activities of their law enforcement partners, as there is more acceptance of their processes when community members see that the agency's personnel reflect a cross-section of the community, thus giving rise to greater confidence that the police will have a better understanding of their needs and concerns.

For more information regarding the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, please feel free to contact Lieut. Charles Wilson, National Chairman, at 401-465-9152.

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