Date : 9/29/2017 3:10:11 PM
From : "Asheville SURJ Core Team via ActionNetwork.org"
To : "jason.smith@acsgmail.net"
Subject : Bree Newsome Tonight - UPDATE

Dear Jason,

UPDATE ON Bree Newsome EVENT

As you may or may not have heard, there has been some controversy surrounding Bree Newsome's speaking engagements in Asheville this week. Asheville Middle School retracted its original invitation to Bree. This seems to be in relation to a very strange school district policy which does not allow anyone who has broken the law or who might encourage others to break the law to speak to students (even laws that are obviously unjust!). This policy must definitely be re-examined and changed. Concerns about this are hopefully all being steered towards the District Superintendent, the district office, and **School Board members**. Do not take concerns directly to staff at Asheville Middle since they are still in the aftermath of a horrific loss amongst teachers, family, and staff from a car accident earlier this week.

Meanwhile, it has come to the attention of organizers for tonight's event at AB Tech that it is possible there will be people seeking to disrupt the scheduled event. If you were planning to come tonight, please come in peaceful SOLIDARITY. As requested by Building Bridges, one of the organizers of the event, **"now is the time to take action and stand in solidarity with Building Bridges and the many people, organizations, and causes that fight for racial justice"** in Asheville and beyond. Please do not bring signage or posters of any kind (though t-shirts that support the Movement for Black Lives and anti-racism work are certainly welcome!). AB Tech is a public space and so one way to turn away people who are there to disrupt Bree's speech is to turn away those with signs or posters. The event tonight is in Ferguson Auditorium at AB Technical College, Victoria Road, and it is a free event open to the public. Beginning at 5pm, refreshments and exhibits will be available in the lobby outside the auditorium. Local organizations will have info tables (including Asheville SURJ). The evening with **Bree,** who is now famous for taking down the confederate flag at the SC State Capital two years ago, will take place from 5:30-7pm.

Please do not post on Facebook about these concerns as the organizers do not want to amplify any interests of those who seek to counter protest Bree's public speaking engagement. Just come and take a seat and be inspired by this amazing activist.

In solidarity,

Elizabeth Schell, ASURJ Core Team

"ASURJ's role is as a volunteer organizing force in Asheville, NC that exists to provide on-ramps for white people and people with privilege to center and follow people of color leadership to dismantle racism locally and in collective action across the nation. 100% of the money we raise goes to support people of color led organizing in Asheville."

ASHEVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

ASURJ website * **National SURJ website** * **State of Black Asheville** * **ASURJ FB**

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