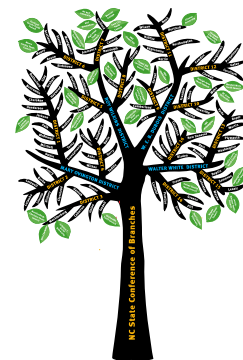


## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE #5480 NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE

3 Centerview Drive, Suite 165 • Greensboro, NC 27407  
Mailing Address: PO Box 7186 • Greensboro, NC 27417  
tel: 866-626-2227 • 919-682-4700 • fax: 919-682-4711  
[www.naacpnc.org](http://www.naacpnc.org)

Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, State President



### June 25, 2020 Statement

The North Carolina NAACP knows Anthony Tata all too well. In 2010, the Wake County School Board that was run by the national and state Tea Party, recruited Brigadier General Tata to be the Superintendent of Wake County's world class schools. He apparently came to the Tea Party's attention from his work as Fox News Commentator. His military record was apparently not vetted; it would have revealed he was a walking scandal. He had never been a teacher or principal in public schools. He held no degree related to education. He had run a military logistics program for one year—nothing to do with developing curriculum, teachers, or students.

Before Tata, the Wake County Public Schools were famous as Exhibit A, having proved that a large urban school district can work. Wake's success was the subtitle of Gerald Grant's best seller 2009 Harvard University Press book called "Why There Are No Bad Schools in Raleigh." The pre-Tata Superintendent, William McNeil, deserves much of the credit for the program that created "No Bad Schools" while raising the scores of middle-class students at the same time. The *New York Times Magazine* cover story in 2008 held up McNeil's formula as a national model for "purely class-based" integration. Between 1997 and 2007, Wake doubled the percentage of black students performing at or above grade level, from 40% to 82.5%, while raising the score of middle-class white students at the same time. Every child lived within five miles from their schools, and no school has more than 40% percent students who qualified for free and reduced lunch programs.

The McNeil diversity program was based on science. Its hypothesis was that mixed schools can, with carefully designed school and class placements based on class, can achieve higher scores for every student. Its organizing principle was that *High-poverty schools don't work*.

Tata's first project for the Tea Party was to re-segregate Wake County Public Schools, transferring huge numbers of African American students back to inner city schools and their white counterparts back to the suburbs. His racial insensitivity quickly became notorious. He seemed to regard African American parents as ideological adversaries, rather than taxpayers invested in the quality of their Public Schools. His authoritarian management style caused many experienced educators to resign because of "the culture of fear," as one said, "he created in the office." Tata could not even manage the school bus schedules. On the first day of School in 2012, the *Raleigh News and Observer* reported parents all over the county complained their "buses are late, lost, or nonexistent, leaving students stranded at bus stops and at school or riding for hours to reach their destination." Tea Party ideology does not necessarily correlate with on-time buses.

Anthony Tata is not fit for any office which might give him power over, or responsibility for, other people. The North Carolina NAACP urges the U.S. Senate to reject Tata's nomination as Undersecretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

T. Anthony Spearman  
President, North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the NAACP