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Media Advisory

Fred Taylor 508-837-1140

Deb Hall 774-437-3121

Joint Statement from the Worcester NAACP and the YWCA of Central Massachusetts

Thirty-five years ago, the brutal beating of Rodney King exposed systemic injustice and abuse of power in America, demanding accountability, and reform. Today, we are still confronting those same failures, now compounded by actions from the highest court in the land. Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana congressional map designed to give Black voters a fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. In doing so, the Court weakened the Voting Rights Act, making it far harder to challenge discriminatory practices. By requiring proof of intentional discrimination rather than recognizing real-world harm, this ruling marks a clear rollback of progress. The Voting Rights Act, won through sacrifice and struggle, was meant to protect communities long excluded from democracy. This decision erodes that protection and leaves voters more vulnerable to disenfranchisement. It is part of a broader pattern of steadily weakening civil rights protections. Even so, we refuse to give in to despair. Across the country, communities are organizing, mobilizing, and demanding justice. The will of the people cannot be silenced. We call on all voters, leaders, and people of conscience: organize, educate, and vote. Push back, peacefully, and persistently, against efforts to weaken our democracy.

We will not go backward.

We will not be silenced.

We will not stop fighting.

Worcester NAACP & YWCA of Central Massachusetts

Fred Taylor
President, NAACP Worcester

Deb Hall
CEO, YWCA of Central Massachusetts