



NAACP

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. President:

As an organization that has long served in the vanguard of the movement to promote civil rights, create economic opportunities, and build greater equity for Black Americans and all people of color, the NAACP has been pleased to see you and your administration's enduring commitment to advancing those same priorities. You have made your dedication to those goals clear since the earliest days of your presidency when you issued multiple executive orders on equity and appointed the most diverse cabinet in our nation's history. Coordinating with lawmakers in Congress and organizations like our own, your administration also ensured that equity was central to recent legislative breakthroughs on pandemic relief, infrastructure, manufacturing, health care, and public safety. At a White House Black History Month reception just a few days ago, you renewed your promise to address longstanding disparities in federal investment and contracting in Black communities. Aligned with the NAACP Maryland State Conference, we seek to elevate the voices of these same communities, and that is why we ask that you to consider these interests when determining the location of the FBI's new consolidated headquarters.

Federal facilities like the new FBI campus generate a wave of quality government jobs, contracting opportunities, and customers for local small businesses in the surrounding area. In the process, they can transform underserved Black communities for the better. Greenbelt, MD, and Landover, MD – both finalists in the FBI headquarters expansion office – are two such examples. Choosing either of these sites would ensure that your administration is doing everything that it can to achieve its equity goals.

Throughout your tenure as president, you have been committed to reinvigorating communities just like Greenbelt and Landover. Both are in the only majority Black jurisdiction in the National Capital Region: Prince George's County, MD. For decades, the county has been passed over for federal investment in comparison to the rest of the region. Despite being home to 20% of the region's federal employees, Prince George's County received only 4% of the region's federal office space. In contrast, it has received half of the region's federal warehouses, which do little to stimulate the local economy and create economic opportunities for Prince Georgians.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

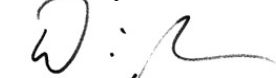
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This disparity in federal office space has contributed to income disparities and the racial wealth gap in the greater Washington metropolitan area. Prince Georgians' median wages trail the average in the rest of the region by 18% and the average in Fairfax County by 48%. Prince George's County also ranks 107th for economic mobility out of America's 150 largest counties. Conversely, Fairfax County ranks second. Crucially, 64% of Prince Georgians are Black, compared with only 10% of the population of Fairfax County – which is the third proposed site.

Your decision on where to locate the new FBI headquarters will either reduce or enlarge the disparities already affecting the National Capital Region. The NAACP strongly believes that choosing Prince George's County as the FBI's new home will do the most to advance your equity agenda. Such a decision would not be charity. The Greenbelt and Landover sites both meet and exceed the FBI's operational and security needs. Additionally, the county has a diverse and highly-skilled workforce that would enhance the FBI's ability to execute its mission. Indeed, our government – and its facilities – should reflect the diversity of the American people that it serves.

The NAACP will continue to stand proudly with your administration to secure greater civil rights, justice, and opportunity for Black Americans. In that same spirit, we hope that you will stand with us on this matter. Thank you for considering these perspectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Johnson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO