



*“One Nation Working Together,
For Justice and Equality
Everywhere”*

Berkshire County Branch, NAACP

Officers:

Dennis Powell, President

Leah Reed, Vice President

Chad Robertson, First Secretary

Stephanie Wright, Second Secretary

Erica Mielke, Treasurer

Shirley Edgerton, Board Member

Alfred (AJ) Enchill, Board Member

Standing Committee:

Leah Reed
Social Media

Megan Whilden
Public Media

Marlena Willis, Will Singleton
Finance and Freedom Fund Co-Chairs

Chad Robertson, Stephanie Wright
Membership & Life Membership Co-Chairs

Leah Reed
Education

Al Blake, Chad Roberson
Economic & Environmental Justice

Drew Herzig, Rebecca Thompson
Social Justice Action Committee

Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest
Race Relations Co-Chairs

Akilah Edgerton & Sarah Trudgeon
Youth Committee Co-Chairs

Berkshire County Branch, NAACP

P.O. Box 605

Pittsfield, MA 01202-0605

Phone:

(413) 464-7898

Email Address

naacpberkshirecounty@gmail.com

Web-Site

www.naacpberkshires.org

January 28, 2019

Mayor Linda Tyer
City of Pittsfield, MA

Dear Mayor, Tyer,

Members of the Social Justice Action Committee of the Berkshire branch of the NAACP wish to thank you for being the catalyst for the Pittsfield police citizens advisory board draft ordinance that successfully, and finally, made it through the Council process.

It took a significant effort on all of our parts, but with strategic research, preparation, multiple meetings, and nuanced editing, it became a fait accompli.

Our committee members are deeply invested in the success of this Board. We see it as a mechanism to turn the “them vs. us” mentality into an acknowledgement that we all are part of one community. Equally important to the ordinance itself is the make-up of the board, and the skills of those who will serve on it. This board requires members who are results-driven. Further, all applicants should be informed that they will have to attend multiple training sessions with no remuneration for their time and any travel expenses.

As for applicant criteria, we hope you will consider the following skills:

- problem-solving
- listening
- systems orientation
- big picture focus
- analytical thinking
- goal setting

Finally, perception matters. As you consider your appointments, we hope you agree that the board should be perceived as truly representative of all citizens of Pittsfield rather than a board of highly connected individuals - which will play into the 'designed to fail' slander that has been, and will be, used to discredit this effort.

Once again, thank you for your perseverance and dedication to community policing.

Respectfully submitted,

Sloan Letman IV, Drew Herzig, Rebecca Thompson, Adene Kirsch