



July 18, 2017

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

Berkshire County Branch, NAACP

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing this letter regarding an article that appeared in the Berkshire Eagle on Thursday, July 6, 2017.

The headlines read “Man shot dead at Durant Park”, this reference to Durant Park was totally miss-leading and false! For clarification the unfortunate man was shot, and after C P R failed the man died on John Street; those are the facts! I would like to suggest to the writer of the story and the Editor that the headline should have read “man shot and killed on John Street”.

The mentioning of Durant Park and referencing how the park got its name; mentioning Rev. Willard Durant and Rosemary Durant was unnecessary; insensitive; and disrespectful, of the Durant’s, their family, and the members of the community that they served...

Additionally, the mentioning of a shooting that took place on July 4th, 2015 was not necessary at a time when we were all working so hard to unite our community.

On Saturday, July 22nd, the Berkshire County Branch of the NAACP will host the oldest running “Westside” community event known as the Gather-In in Durant Park. This year marks the 44th, consecutive year for this event.

In the 44 years of this event there has never been any act of violence. In the earlier years the Gather-In went from 12 noon to 12 midnight as it ended with a block dance for the community; truly a wonderful non-violent time for all, was had...

The Eagle needs to stop portraying the Westside community as this violent unsafe community; it is not deserving of the bias, and often absence of fact reporting that it receives...

I encourage all to come to the Gather-In and have a wonderful day of fun, entertainment and great food!

Dennis Powell
President, Berkshire County Branch NAACP