

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION *of* SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS



Serving Children, Families, and School Psychologists Since 1952

February 12, 2023

Dear Hyatt Hotels Corporation:

As previously acknowledged by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists acknowledges that a totally unacceptable and harmful incident occurred Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, in the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center that directly affected NASP President Dr. Celeste Malone, her friends, colleagues, and family, and by extension the Black community. The actions of hotel security are antithetical to NASP's values, commitment to working to end racism and discrimination, and being a welcoming, safe space for all marginalized people. The actions on February 8th, 2023, also contradict Hyatt's commitment to a "World of Care" and vision to advance initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As indicated on your website, "We are committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion and, when we have not lived up to our own expectations, we hold ourselves urgently accountable to do better".

Dr. Malone, along with other Black leaders in school psychology, are doing amazing work, as evidenced by so much of what is making this convention exciting and meaningful. *The Connecticut Association of School Psychologists are **outraged and stand in solidarity** with Dr. Malone and the Black community.* There is no justification for this incident, and we will hold the Hyatt accountable. We support the following four NASP requests and ask that the Hyatt:

1. Give a public genuine apology to Dr. Malone
2. Refund all room charges and fees to Dr. Malone's invited guests to the party
3. Provide direct compensation to Dr. Malone

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4. Give substantive donations to the NASP Minority Scholarship Program, Howard University (to be determined by Dr. Malone), and the Black School Psychology Network.

We are outraged that this happened in our convention space which is supposed to be a place of safety, celebration, and joy. The actions of the staff at the Denver Hyatt were unacceptable, inappropriate, and are indicative of the continued work we must do in our journey towards anti-racism.

Sincerely,

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