



**LOS ANGELES**

**NAACP**

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**STATEMENT FROM NAACP LOS ANGELES PRESIDENT  
REGARDING CONTROVERSIAL ARREST AT STARBUCKS**

“The arrest of two African American men in a Philadelphia’s Starbucks this past week was a throwback to the past, when signs read, *No Negroes Allowed*,” stated Carl R. Henley, Esq., President of the NAACP Los Angeles Branch.

“I applaud the initial response of Kevin Johnson the CEO of Starbucks in the manner the company handled the incident in Philadelphia. The immediate action to confront this unfortunate situation appears to show good corporate responsibility. However, we realize that this racial conflict is another sad reminder of the current status of America’s race relations,” said Henley.

“I am encouraged that Starbucks has decided to close its company-owned stores in the United States on the afternoon of May 29, 2018; in an effort to conduct racial-bias education to focus on preventing discrimination in Starbucks’ stores. I am cautiously optimistic in regards to the success of this educational endeavor,” Henley emphasized.

“Some critics are calling this a ploy and publicity stunt by Starbucks. However, I am less concern about the *motivation* of the company’s action to resolve its racial problems. I believe, if organizing this specific day to address race relations for its workforce, then perhaps this may be one small step for one company, with broader applications for our nation,” concluded Henley.

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