(7/2/09): Cincinnati NAACP and AFSCME Announce Water Signature Count At 2PM Press Conference Today

July 2, 2009Media Release

Cincinnati NAACP

The Cincinnati NAACP and AFSCME will hold a press conference today, July 2 at 2p.m. at the Cincinnati NAACP located at 4439 Reading Road. The purpose of the Press Conference is to announce that our team has collected enough signatures to place the question of selling or transferring our water to a private board or entity on the ballot. The threshold is 6,150 good signatures. City Council voted out of the Economic Committee to move forward with the sale/transfer of Cincinnati WaterWorks for $400 million. The Cincinnati NAACP is proud to stand with AFSCME in demanding a vote on this major public policy change. The people of Cincinnati will be given the right to vote because of the efforts of AFSCME and the Cincinnati NAACP. The Cincinnati NAACP invites our members, AFSCME members, those who petitioned, and the media to this historic press conference. "It is not easy to petition your government so I hope government will now listen" Smitherman says. This will be the fifth issue that the Cincinnati NAACP and its partners have gotten on the ballot in 3 years. "African Americans did not have the right to vote for over 400 years in this country and now we are putting issues on the ballot. That is history" Smitherman says.

The group " Cincinnatians for Progress" just started 3 months ago to stop the Cincinnati NAACP from collecting signatures legally. The message is clear even if you do things legal we are not interested in "African Americans" being at the table. It looks like "Jim Crow "is trying to show its head. Also, we understand that institutional racism against African Americans does not work without the direct involvement of other African Americans. The Cincinnati NAACP understands our history with groups like "Cincinnatians for Progress" and will defend our right to vote.