

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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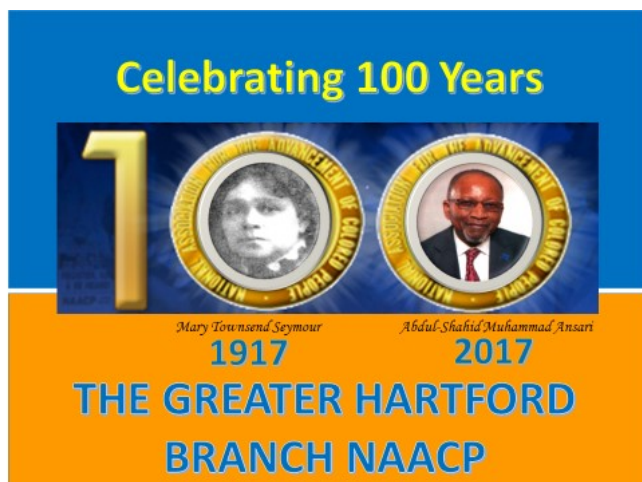
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## GREATER HARTFORD NAACP PRESENTS LIVING PRESIDENTS

### Event Part of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**HARTFORD** – The Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library will host a program presenting the voices of the living presidents of the Greater Hartford NAACP Branch on Saturday, June 24, 2 to 4 pm, in the Hartford History Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main St.

The program will be moderated by HPL board member Andrea Comer, Vice President of Workforce Strategies at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) Education & Workforce Partnership.



Panelists for “The Greater Hartford NAACP Celebrates 100 Years: Voices From the Living Presidents” include: Dr. Sedrick Rawlins; James W. Patterson; Ula Dodson; Barbara Wiggins; Russell Williams; Joan Harrison Gibson; and the Honorable Thirman L. Milner.

The Greater Hartford NAACP

was founded in October, 1917, when local leaders and national NAACP officers W.E.B. DuBois, Mary White Ovington, and James Weldon Johnson, traveled from New York City to Hartford at the invitation of Mary Townsend Seymour, a leader in the city’s growing African American community. The branch’s founding was an integrated undertaking, with people of all creeds, races, and genders working for the attainment of a society of equality, security, and freedom for all.

Greater Hartford NAACP Vice President Annette Shack has been conducting research on the branch at the Hartford History Center. The partnership will continue as the history center will produce a short video series using interviews with the living presidents on how the Greater Hartford NAACP has impacted the community and impacted the lives of the living presidents during their tenure. This series will become available online on the history center’s digital repository this fall.

“The founding of the Greater Hartford branch is a major chapter in not only Hartford’s history, but also the history of organizing for civil, human, and voting rights,” says Greater Hartford NAACP President Muhammad Ansari. “Though much work has been done, now more than ever we need to stay focused on educational equality and criminal justice reform, issues that continue to be at the forefront of our community.”

The branch will mark its centennial at its annual Freedom Fund dinner, Sept. 22, 2017, starting with a reception at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm, at the Hartford Hilton Hotel, 315 Trumbull Street in Hartford. Roslyn M. Brock, NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Emeritus, is the keynote speaker. Information: 860-922-1160.