



February 12, 2023

Hyatt Hotels Corporation
150 North Riverside Plaza, 8th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Hyatt Hotels Corporation:

In support of the written statement from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the Georgia Association of School Psychologists (GASP) acknowledges that a totally unacceptable and harmful incident occurred on Wednesday, February 8, 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. In addition, the February 8th incident is contradictory of Hyatt's commitment to a "World of Care" and a vision to advance initiatives related to diversity, equity and inclusion. The following statement on your website noted that "we (Hyatt) 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." Ironically, the Hyatt Regency Denver had a sign in the lobby acknowledging and celebrating Black History Month; yet Dr. Malone, her family, and colleagues were treated in a manner that was completely disrespectful and unacceptable. As the black state leader and President of GASP, I am immensely disappointed and hold you "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 made this convention exciting and meaningful. The Georgia 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 Hotels Corporation accountable. We support the following four NASP requests and ask that the Hyatt Hotels Corporation:

1. Give a public, genuine apology to Dr. Celeste Malone.
2. Refund all room charges and fees to Dr. Malone's invited guests to the party.
3. Provide direct compensation to Dr. Malone
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 recommendations listed above are a starting point and not to be an ending point. If you are as committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion as you claim, you will repair the harm done to our colleagues and use this as an opportunity to make truly transformative change in the way your hotels are operated and how you serve your guests. The school psychologists of Georgia urge you as an organization to do better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly W. Franklin, Ed.S." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kimberly Franklin, President, Georgia Association of School Psychologists, Gasppresident1@gmail.com