



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Lightfoot: Lonsberry an Embarrassment to the Community Demands Swift Discipline for False Claim

Rochester, New York – August 22, 2008. Monroe County Legislator Willie J. Lightfoot (D-Rochester) is calling for immediate disciplinary action against radio host Bob Lonsberry for potentially libelous statements made on this afternoon's broadcast of his show, which airs on local radio station WHAM.

Speaking about Legislator Lightfoot's essay on child care subsidies in today's *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, Lonsberry repeatedly questioned how "convicted drunk driver Willie Lightfoot" could find the nerve to write the essay. Lightfoot has never been charged or convicted of driving while intoxicated.

"Mr. Lonsberry's comments are an embarrassment to our entire community and he has fatally wounded the remaining shred of credibility his show had. All he needed to do is a simple fact check to realize he was making a serious false charge against a public official. Given the controversy surrounding his show over the past few years, I find it very hard to believe that he did not know full well that his statements were false," Lightfoot said.

Lonsberry's show was cancelled several years ago after he referred to the former Mayor of Rochester as a primate. After WHAM chose to bring Lonsberry back, controversy again erupted when in June he said that single mothers in the Rochester City School District's Black Scholars program should not be rewarded and should have "kept their legs together."

"This is the latest example of Lonsberry's racist disregard for the entire African American community. The management team at WHAM should be embarrassed by his vicious and continuing habit of tearing people down. These comments are totally unacceptable and I will be speaking with legal counsel regarding potential action to remove this offensive personality from Rochester's airwaves," Lightfoot added.

Aside from his duties as a Monroe County Legislator, Lightfoot also serves as a City of Rochester firefighter, small business owner, ordained Minister and he is a veteran of the first Iraq War.

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