



## National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Lansing Branch

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**Dale Copedge, President**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Bakari Sellers headlines Lansing NAACP Freedom Fund Telecast**

*Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist featured as special guest speaker*

LANSING – CNN political commentator Bakari Sellers will be the keynote speaker for the Lansing Branch NAACP 55<sup>th</sup> Freedom Fund Celebration airing at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16 on WLNS-TV 6. Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist will be a special guest speaker during the televised event themed as Passion Led Us Here.

Sellers made history in 2006 when at 22 years old he became the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the country. Sellers is a leading voice in the African-American community providing in-depth political analysis and social commentary on CNN. A New York Times best-selling author of *My Vanishing Country: A Memoir*, Sellers has been named to TIME magazine's 40 Under 40 in 2010 and in 2014 and 2015 he made the "The Root 100" list of the nation's most influential African Americans. Currently he hosts the Bakari Sellers Podcast and he practices law with the Strom Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, South Carolina.

"Bakari Sellers is a proven leader in our country," said Fonda Brewer, chair of the Freedom Fund Celebration. "He gives a voice to the voiceless all the while providing intriguing insight and analysis of the political arena and how it affects our vulnerable communities."

Gilchrist, a Detroit area native and a trained software engineer, became the first African American to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Michigan when he took office in January 2019. He has led campaigns for equality and justice while using technology to help solve problems.

"Having these two historical voices speak, Lt. Gov. Gilchrist and Mr. Sellers, truly represents the importance of passion to be a servant for the least of us," Brewer said.

In addition to Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, the celebration also will air at noon on Sunday, Oct. 17 on WLJ-TV 53 (ABC) and at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22 on ELAJ (CW-5).

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation.

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*Membership is Power! No Membership, No Power: Join the NAACP Today*