

PRESS RELEASE
November 16, 2017

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR
THE CONCERNED BLACK NURSES OF NEWARK, INC.**



Pictured are (from left to right) Evette Estwick, Dr. Portia Johnson, Dr. Elaine Patterson, Lucinda Swinton, Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake, Dr. Lois Greene, and Lynda Arnold during the special presentation honoring the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – On Wednesday, October 25, 2017, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc., during a special presentation at the Hall of Records in Newark, New Jersey.

The Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc., dates back to 1900 when Martha Franklin founded the first organization of Black Nurses, known as the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN). NACGN was dissolved in 1951 to facilitate the assimilation of Black Nurses into the American Nurses Association.

The present Black Nurses Association is attributed to the foresight of Dr. Lauranne Sams who assembled a Black Nurses concept at the 1970 American Nurses Association (ANA) Convention in Miami, Florida, to discuss issues pertinent to Black Nurses. In September 1973, the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) held its first conference and Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. Hilda Goldston, Annette Hubbard, and Pauline Lewis from Newark, New Jersey, attended the meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, and their attendance laid the foundation for the establishment of Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc. The organization allows nurses to improve healthcare in Black Communities and advocate for the underserved.

Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake and District 2 Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson co-sponsored the presentation, celebrating the organization’s advocacy on behalf of the community. The presentation was concluded by a special poem from Reverend Arnold Fox, Director of Chaplaincy Services at East Orange General Hospital. The poem included tales of the great legacy and work ethic nurses have.

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