



**Rogers J. Johnson**  
President

Seacoast NAACP  
P.O. Box 1261  
Portsmouth, NH 03820  
(603) 793-6827  
[www.seacoastnaacp.com](http://www.seacoastnaacp.com)

August 31, 2019

## An Open Letter to John Carver

Everywhere you turn today, people are rediscovering and are willing to openly discuss the impact of slavery on the collective history of America. What is more, there seems to be a renewed interest in teaching the true nature of that impact in our schools, to give a more meaningful understanding of what actually took place as opposed to the cursory discussions that happen now. This is important because the most important action we can do for our children is to adequately prepare our youth to exist in the world they will enter. Concurrent to that, it also affords our educators a deeper understanding of what occurred; to learn about and teach about slavery in an unvarnished, realistic and impactful manner, not prone to harmful “jingles” that may cause some to have thoughts of the irrelevance, to dismiss the horrors that took place. To this end it is important to recognize, admit and show contrition when harm has been done to the community, the school district and to African Americans.

No amount of “restorative justice” can make up for the absence of an apology, the recognition of harm done and the public expression of that fact. To date, no such expression has taken place. It is for this reason, the fight for civil rights and equal justice will go on.

Sincerely,

Rogers Johnson  
President  
NAACP, Seacoast Area Branch