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NAACP convention tours three Boston neighborhoods



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BOSTON — NAACP officials received a warm welcome at Boston's Cote Village Apartments in the city's Mattapan neighborhood on Friday.

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A new apartment building on Cummins Highway houses more than 50 affordable family units. It was built next to an MBTA stop on land that used to be the site of an abandoned car dealership.

Inside the community room, it was time to talk community.

Mattapan has the highest Black homeownership in the state, but it also has its challenges.

"We have one of the highest rates of asthma in the city of Boston," Fatima Ali-Salaam, with the Mattapan Neighborhood Council, said. "A lot of that comes from pollution from vehicles, but also indoor pollution. So we're trying to make sure that when development comes in, it's actually clean development."

Mattapan is also home to a rapidly growing Haitian population, immigrants who need a new start.

"When they come here, finally, after making such a long journey, we must do whatever it takes to treat them with love, compassion, respect and dignity," Dr. Geralde Gabeau, the founder of



WCVB

There are three stops on the neighborhood tour. Mattapan, Dorchester and Nubian Square in Roxbury.

At each stop, local businesses are showcased and community leaders talk about problems and problem solving.

Taking on leadership roles is critical.

"I'm a community activist first, but I'm bringing that spirit inside the council because now is the time to be as loud and as bold as this moment is calling for," Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor At-Large, said.

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