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**ADL COMMENDS EMORY PRESIDENT JAMES WAGNER FOR “SINCERE APOLOGY”
OVER REMARKS ABOUT THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE**

February 21, 2013, Atlanta, GA...The Anti-Defamation League today commended Emory University President James Wagner for what ADL called “a sincere and heartfelt apology” for an article in which Wagner described the Three-Fifths Compromise a positive example of opposing forces finding a way to work together to make progress on a difficult racial issue.

The Three-Fifths Compromise was a deal made by Northern and Southern representatives at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It established that for the purposes of taxation and representation, each slave would be counted as three-fifths of a person.

“Jim Wagner’s column was clearly offensive. To his credit, he realized almost immediately that he’d made a terrible blunder and apologized quickly for his insensitive use of the story of the Compromise as an example of progress,” said Bill Nigut, Southeast regional Director of ADL.

Nigut said that ADLs dealings with Wagner convince him that the Emory University president is deeply committed to social justice and to atoning for past practices of institutionalized discrimination at Emory.

“In my experience Jim has never flinched from taking on and working to resolve issues of discrimination and injustice.”

Late last year, Wagner invited a large group of Jewish leaders to a town meeting at Emory at which Wagner personally issued an apology for the anti-Semitic policies that forced Jewish students out of the non-defunct Emory dental school decades ago. Several years earlier, Wagner spoke out eloquently about the use of slave labor at Emory in the Nineteenth Century and apologized for that, too.

“We are pleased that Jim Wagner has recognized the terrible impact his Three-Fifths observations have had on many in the community. At the same time, we hope that this episode is viewed in the larger context of the positive work he’s done to promote justice and an end to discrimination and bigotry,” Nigut said.

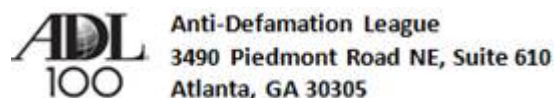
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