



June 1, 2020

US REPRESENTATIVES, US SENATORS, US GOVERNORS, US ATTORNEY GENERAL, US DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, US MAYORS, and US POLICE CHIEFS:

100 years ago in 1920, a flag was flown from the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that read “A Man Was Lynched Yesterday.” Today in 2020, the message is still prevalent. In 2019, Black people made up 24% of fatal police incidents, despite only making up 13% of the United States Population. There were only 27 days that Police officers across America went without killing someone in 2019.¹

For far too many centuries, Black people across the country have been treated as if our lives mean nothing. We have been brutalized, murdered, disregarded, and so much more. Enough is enough; we are tired of seeing our Black family members laying lifeless in the streets. We are tired of America’s racist broken record playing over and over again. Our lives matter just as much as our white counterparts. There are too many names, too many stories, too many hashtags, and too many times that we have to raise these issues to demand justice. This cycle can end with you. You can decide to choose the side of justice and equality for all and take a stand against racism in America.

As young Black leaders we are demanding that the following changes be implemented across the board:

- Increased and recurring mandatory training around racial bias, mental health, and de-escalation tactics
- A ban on the use of knee holds, choke holds, and chemical weapons as an acceptable practice for police officers
- The Use of Force Continuum for any police department in the country must ensure that there are at least 6 levels of steps, with clear rules on escalation
- Creating statewide and local citizen review boards for fatal & excessive force police incidents, that will be elected by the residents
- Police officers who discharge their weapon and/or use excessive force on an unarmed person should be suspended without pay pending further investigation. Their names and policing histories are made available to the public in addition to the information provided in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Eliminating the loopholes that allow Police officers involved in fatal & excessive force incidents to move to a different department
- Allowing citizens to petition officers out of their job due to misconduct
- Police Departments that are reflective of the communities they serve
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and safety of our communities, by requiring front-facing cameras to be actively recording for all police officers who are on duty

¹ “Mapping Police Violence.” *Mapping Police Violence*, 2020, mappingpoliceviolence.org/.

Courage has not skipped this generation and we will not stop fighting for Black lives. Being silent during these times does not make you a neutral leader. It shows all of America that you are choosing the side of the oppressor and contributing to the problem. This fight isn't just for George Floyd, or Breonna Taylor, or Tony McDade, or Dreasjon Reed, or Eric Garner, or Sandra Bland. This fight is for all of the victims of police brutality whose names and stories we know and those that were never told. Help us ensure that their deaths are not in vain.

Fighting for Freedom,

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Nasaiah Hoskins
PENNSYLVANIA

Morandon Henry
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