The Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP

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DIRECT ACTION TO BRING JUSTICE FOR THE UNJUSTIFIED KILLING OF ANDREW BROWN, JR. BY THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY SHERIFF's DEPARTMENT

ELIZABETH CITY, NC— The United States is currently experiencing one of the longest continued periods of civil unrest in generations. Retaliation by police against civilians is widely documented. **There has not been a single week in 2021 without an incidence of police brutality against a civilian in the United States.** That violence and brutality has come to Elizabeth City, North Carolina with the execution of Andrew Brown, by the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department on April 21, 2021.

On Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at approximately 8:30am, 5-7 heavily armed Pasquotank County Sheriff Department deputies arrived at the residence of Andrew Brown, Jr., which is located at the corner of a busy intersection, in a school zone. The deputies arrived on the back of a pick-up truck allegedly to execute a search and arrest warrant. However, instead of the execution of the warrants, the deputies, who were carrying military style assault-rifles, performed an execution of Mr. Brown when they opened numerous rounds of ammunition aimed directly at him while he was in his car, in his driveway. **An independent autopsy showed that Mr. Brown had four bullet wounds through his arms which were on the steering wheel. The fatal shot was a single shot in the back of Mr. Brown's head. According to the public statements made by Mr. Brown's attorneys, Mr. Brown was unarmed with his hands on the steering wheel trying to flee from the barrage of bullets when he was fatally killed by the deputies.**

Pasquotank County Sheriff Tommy Wooten placed seven deputies on administrative leave immediately following the murder of Mr. Brown. Currently, four deputies have been reinstated, two have resigned, and one has retired. Surveillance from a city camera atop a light pole was immediately released by the City of Elizabeth City. **Legal requests have been made by the family, the media, and the Pasquotank County Sheriff Department to at least release all of the footage, however, these requests were denied.**

On April 28, Judge Jerry Foster ruled that all law enforcement footage of the shooting be delayed for reconsideration and public release for at least 30 days, but no more than 45 days. Judge Foster also ruled that a representative of the family, along with one North Carolina licensed attorney could view a redacted and edited version of the footage within 10 days. **On May 11, the oldest son of Mr. Brown, Kahlil, and an attorney were allowed to only view 20 minutes of 2 hours of footage, with blurred faces and redacted audio.**

Just now we saw a short clip of the video displayed by DA Womble in his press conference. It displayed officers arriving to his home with guns drawn, pointed directly at Mr. Brown who was

seated in his vehicle. They barricaded his vehicle, surrounding him with rifles, yelling “get out of the vehicle.”

Brown puts his vehicle in reverse, which appears to be a clear attempt to get away from all of the guns, and within seconds his vehicle is loaded with gunshots. Within seconds, he is murdered, but no charges will be brought. DA Womble says that this execution was justified.

In the words of Attorney Ben Crump, “In this modern civil rights crisis where we see Black people killed by the police everywhere we look, video evidence is the key to discerning the truth and getting well-deserved justice for victims of senseless murders.” We need truth and transparency! Only through transparency of practices, policies, and procedures implemented by the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Department and the Pasquotank County District Attorney’s office can accountability be obtained for the family of Andrew Brown, Jr.

OUR DEMANDS:

1. Full disclosure and review of the following items:
    - All unedited and unredacted body camera videos including audio worn by the deputies on the scene at the time of tragic shooting of Andrew Brown, Jr. in addition to written reports and transcripts of the incident by the Pasquotank
    - County Sheriff’s Department
    - The hiring, training, and evaluation of procedures and practices of deputies and officers in the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Department
    - The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Department
    - The policy and procedures around the serving and issuing of a search and arrest warrant
    - The policy related to the use of force
    - The policy related to engagement in residential zones, school protected zones, and moving vehicles
2. Development and implementation of a Community Review Board (CRB) that will independently investigate policing and employment practices by the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Department
3. The resignation of Sheriff Tommy Wooten, Jr.
4. The termination, prosecution, and conviction of any deputies found responsible for the execution of Andrew Brown, Jr.
5. An independent investigation into the patterns and practices of the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s office and the Elizabeth City District Attorney's office by the United States Department of Justice.
6. The creation and passage of statewide legislation implementing a mandatory public release of body camera footage within 48 hours of a law enforcement killing.

DIRECT ACTION:
We must tell Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City residents that this is the time to act! We must demand that our public servants provide transparency for the jobs they were elected and employed to fulfill.

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About the N.C. NAACP
North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP (“North Carolina NAACP”) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization composed of over 100 branches throughout the state of North Carolina. The fundamental mission of the North Carolina NAACP is the advancement and improvement of the political, civil, educational, social, and economic

status of minority groups; the elimination of racial prejudice; the publicizing of adverse effects of racial discrimination; and the initiation of lawful action to secure the elimination of racial bias. www.naacpnc.org

About Forward Justice

Forward Justice is a nonpartisan law, policy and strategy center dedicated to advancing racial, social, and economic justice in the U.S. South. Our work catalyzes success for social movements and expands opportunities for people affected by injustice. www.ForwardJustice.org