



The Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, July 29, 2021

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For Planning Purposes: Thursday, July 29th 4:30-8:30pm

200 East Colonial Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

100 DAYS AFTER THE EXECUTION OF ANDREW BROWN, JR. THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY NAACP CALLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMUNITY REVIEW COMMISSION.

Civil rights groups will host a march, rally, and press conference commemorating the day as they unveil demands for the formation of an independent body to investigate policing and employment practices by the Pasquotank County Sheriff's department.

ELIZABETH CITY, NC— Friday, July 30th will mark 100 days since the April 21, 2021 execution of Andrew Brown, Jr. by deputies of the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department. Over the course of these 100 days, members of the Pasquotank County community have yet to feel assured that those who are elected to serve and protect its citizens truly intend to do just that - protect and serve.

"Since the execution of Mr. Brown, there have been various failures by the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department including a lack of transparency, accountability, communication, discipline for the officers involved, and most importantly sensitivity to a part of the Pasquotank County community that feels as if once again, the system has failed them. We need truth and transparency!", said Keith Rivers, president of the Pasquotank County Branch of the NC NAACP, "Only through transparency of practices, policies, and procedures implemented by the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department can the relationship between the department and this county's community begin to grow and prosper."

OUR DEMAND

On behalf of the members of the Pasquotank County community, the Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP (Pasquotank NAACP) demand that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners develop and implement a Community Review Commission (CRC) that will independently investigate policing and employment practices by the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department.

It is imperative for the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners to form this reviewing commission because they are the body that funds the operation of the Sheriff Department and is capable of creating an official body that can review citizens complaints regarding the operation and activities of the Sheriff's Department.

The Pasquotank NAACP proposes the scheduling of a meeting with the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, along with other community allies, to propose a structure and scope of authority to facilitate these efforts of creating the reviewing commission.

DIRECT ACTION

March, Rally, and Press Conference: Thursday, July 29th 4:30-8:30pm - 200 East Colonial Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

We must let our elected officials know that we are still fighting for justice! We want effective change in this community that will help hold accountable law enforcement actions that threaten the safety and security of Pasquotank County citizens. We must push for the development and implementation of a commission that will be able to monitor and hold accountable the people we elected to protect and serve our community!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.**

Demands to develop an independent commission came after civil rights leaders called on the FBI to open an independent investigation into the shooting, and a delegation of community members, clergy, and activists traveled to Washington, D.C. to deliver a letter to federal officials asking the U.S. Department of Justice to open a pattern or practice investigation on allegations of excessive force, biased policing, and other practices in Pasquotank County.

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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.naacpn.org

