

Via Electronic Mail

April 13, 2020

Mayor R. Keith Summey
North Charleston City Council Members
City of North Charleston City Hall
2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, S.C. 29406

Dear Mayor Summey and North Charleston Council Members:

April 4, 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the murder of Walter Scott, a Black father, by a former North Charleston Police Department (NCPD) officer. Sadly, Mr. Scott's death is just one example of the use of lethal or excessive force by NCPD officers against people of color. Other victims include: [Edward Snowden \(2000\)](#); [Ashberry Wylder \(2003\)](#); [Robert Bishop \(2011\)](#); [Sheldon Williams \(2011\)](#); [Evelyn DeVillegas \(2011\)](#); James Cannon (2012); and [Arkein Campbell \(2018\)](#).

Additionally, NCPD's investigation of complaints against police and traffic stops have revealed racial disparities. For example:

- In 2017, a [report](#) by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) found that a disproportionate number of Black residents (60%) filed complaints against NCPD police officers when compared to white residents (33%), yet NCPD sustained Black residents' complaints at lower rates (31%) when compared to white residents (50%).
- In 2019, 60% of NCPD's traffic stops resulting in no citations or arrests involved Black persons even though the Black population of North Charleston was only 46%.

With this track record, North Charleston residents of color are understandably distrustful and fearful of police during their interactions.

Since Mr. Scott's death, local and national advocates – including the [Charleston Area Justice Ministry \(CAJM\)](#), [the ACLU of South Carolina](#), [the local NAACP Branch](#), and [LDF](#) - have called for policing reforms, including a review of NCPD policies and practices to eliminate racial bias. In 2016, under public pressure, Mayor Summey and former Police Chief Driggers [invited](#) the U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services Office (DOJ) to conduct and publicly release a comprehensive evaluation of NCPD. In 2017, new leadership at DOJ [abandoned](#) its review of the NCPD. North Charleston officials have since refused to conduct a similar public assessment, choosing instead to review NCPD policies in secret and issuing a [community survey](#) of predominantly white residents missing an opportunity to capture the views of a diverse cross section of the city.

A racial bias audit of NCPD police practices is long overdue. City [leaders and activists](#) have demanded it. The neighboring City of Charleston has [conducted an audit](#) of its police

department and is using the results to inform improvements to policing services. It is time for North Charleston to do the same. **To build trust between North Charleston's communities of color and police, we strongly urge city officials to hire qualified, independent auditors who will evaluate actual and perceived racial bias in NCPD's policies and practices and publicly release their findings and recommendations for reform.**

Signed,

Charleston Area Justice Ministry

ACLU of South Carolina

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

1. Anthony Scott
2. A. Vereene Parnell
3. Abby Himmelein
4. Adrienne Chisolm Cox
5. Aimee Herring
6. Albert Keller
7. Ali Titus
8. Alice Michaux
9. Alice Wakefield
10. Amanda Mushal
11. Amanda Jones
12. Amy Williams
13. Andrea Smith
14. Angela Smalls
15. Angus Baker
16. Ann Birdseyr
17. Anna Mims
18. Anne Motoviloff
19. Anne Park
20. Annette Scott
21. Annette Sherman
22. Ansley Kamau Pope
23. AR Horwitz
24. Bailey Byrum
25. Barbara Watson
26. Barbara Cole
27. Barbara Gathers
28. Barbara Brant-Williams
29. Barbara Sanders
30. Barry Sanders

31. Beau Johnson
32. Ben Pogue
33. Ben Tennille
34. Betty Niermann
35. Betty Pigott
36. Betty Gore
37. Bonnie Seabright
38. Brandon Chapman
39. Brenda Smalls-Lee
40. Brian Shealey
41. Bridget Walker
42. Bruce Tyndall
43. Calvin Logan
44. Camille Bradford
45. Candice Suggars
46. Carl Ahlert
47. Carl Blum
48. Carol Tempel
49. Carol Smith
50. Carol Jules
51. Carson Peaden
52. Catherine Nelson
53. Chad Higgins
54. Charles Chandler
55. Cheryl Pitts
56. Chloe Stuber
57. Chris Hayes
58. Christine Male
59. Corey Hobbs
60. Courtney Davis-Shoemaker
61. Cynthia Kavanagh
62. Daniel O'Neal
63. Danny Reed
64. Danya Firestone
65. David McLane
66. David Wyanski
67. David Johnson
68. David White
69. David Gibson
70. David A. Brunson Jr.
71. Dawnn Jamison
72. Debbie Hall
73. DebbieEasterling
74. Deborah Agbor-Tabi

75. Deborah Palmer
76. Debra Padgett
77. Debra Politano
78. Dee Shanti
79. Delores Dingle
80. Delta Smith
81. Denise Scott
82. Don Bolger
83. Donald Wilbur
84. Donna Farmer
85. Donna Barrio
86. Doris Brown
87. Dorothea Jenkins
88. Elaine M
89. Elizabeth Sharper
90. Elizabeth Harley
91. Elizabeth Whitaker
92. Elizabeth McAnally
93. Ellen Brandwein
94. Erin Mckee
95. Evelyn Oliveira
96. Feidin Santana
97. Frankie Riggs
98. Frederick Simmons
99. Freida McDuffie
100. Gail Gilliatd
101. Gail Dawson
102. Gayle Newcomb
103. George Hopkins
104. Ginger Doubt
105. Ginger Griffin
106. Greta Anderson
107. Haley Gabrielle
108. Hannah Blakeman
109. Helen Whatley
110. Henry Elmore
111. Holly Lofgreen
112. Howard Edmonds
113. Jackie Shelley
114. James Berry
115. James Bonheimer
116. Jamie George
117. Jamilah Frazier
118. Jan Hirsch

119. Jane Shealey
120. Jane Claiborne
121. Janet Fine
122. Jason Slade
123. Jean Hart
124. Jeanie Stein
125. Jeff Aters
126. Jeffrey Livingston
127. Jennifer Welham
128. Jennifer Duffell-Hoffman
129. Jennifer Egnor
130. Jenny-Brooke Condon
131. Jeremy Rutledge
132. Jerome Scott
133. Jesse Williams
134. Jessica Henry
135. Jessica Arndt
136. Jessie Parks
137. Jill Keenleyside
138. Jim Hemphill
139. Joan Edgerton
140. Joan Ustin
141. Joan Yates
142. Joel Stachnik
143. Joseph Darby
144. Judy Selby
145. June Murray
146. Karen Metcalf-Sommer
147. Karen Wager
148. Karl Peterson
149. Karyn Healey
150. Kat Martin
151. Katherine Fleming
152. Kathleen Stone
153. Kathryn Cullinan
154. Katie Donohoe
155. Kay Haun
156. Kayla Gilchrist
157. Keannette Perez
158. Kelle Peeplez
159. Kim Wilson
160. Kristin Westerson
161. Kristin Wise
162. Kyndra Luce

163. Laron Cobb
164. Larry Jackson
165. Laura Kohler
166. Lauren Reed
167. Lavar Brown
168. Lee Fryland
169. Leigh Ann Garrett
170. Leola Turner
171. Leslie Power
172. Leslie Stroud-Romero
173. Libby Wiersema
174. Linda Garrett
175. Linda Schulkin
176. Linda Mayo-Perez
177. Linda Chinnis
178. Lisa Pate
179. Lisa Hayes
180. LuAnn Rosenzweig
181. LuanneRodgers
182. Lucille Keller
183. Lucius Gibbs
184. Lynn Chiappone
185. Makayla Cook
186. Marcia West
187. Margaret Reider
188. Margaret Parry
189. Margaret Griffin
190. Margaret Welty
191. Marguerite Tennille
192. Marie Stephens
193. Marie Tryssesoone
194. Marilyn Taylor
195. Marjory Wentworth
196. Martha Watson
197. Mary Merz
198. Mary Kay Meek
199. Mary Kay Mclane
200. Matthew Brady
201. Matthew Cressler
202. Meghan Moore
203. Michael Laird
204. Michelle Finney
205. Mildred Currie
206. Millicent E. Brown, Ph.D.

207. Morgan Power
208. Nancy Benjamin
209. Nancy Cofer-Shabica
210. Nancy Warren
211. Nancy Pellegrini
212. Nola Davis
213. Notasha Scott
214. Olivette Peterson
215. Pamela McDetmott
216. Pat Hay
217. Patricia Pearce
218. Paul Garbarini
219. Peter Steele
220. Phillip Gibson
221. Phillip Scott
222. Priscilla Jeffery
223. Raynique Says
224. Rebecca Saunders
225. Rebecca Branham
226. Rebecca Thayer
227. Renee Gailliard
228. Rev Jack Lewis Jr.
229. Rhoda Ascanio
230. Rhunnett Nelson
231. Richard Pastva
232. Riley Abel
233. Rob Wehrman
234. Robert Bohrn
235. Robert Britt
236. Robin Nazon
237. Roger Woodward
238. Ron Rocz
239. Ronald Smith
240. Rose Stump
241. Ruth Monsell
242. Ryan Leveille
243. Sadie Rose Honchock
244. Sam Williams Holmes
245. Sam Aby
246. Sandra Lee
247. Sandra Lester
248. Sandy Kenper
249. Sara Rutledge
250. Seth Rosenzweig

251. Seymour Wilder
252. Shanalea Forrest
253. Sharon Mackey
254. Sharon Langdale
255. Shayd Williams
256. Sherry Coish
257. Skip Johnson
258. Stacy Rubin
259. Stephanie Sass
260. Sterling Chancley
261. Stewart Denslow
262. Sue Johnson
263. Sul Black
264. Susan Turner
265. Susan Parsons
266. Susan Dunn
267. Suzanna Hinkle
268. Suzanne Wolf
269. Taylor Kahn-Perry
270. Terese Shelton
271. Terry Bell-Aby
272. Thomas Dixon
273. Tianna Arndt
274. TiffanyJohnson
275. Tim Carle
276. Tracey Owens
277. Treva Williams
278. Tyler Ung
279. Victoria Baylock
280. Virginia Ross
281. Virginia Bullard
282. Ashley Bullard
283. Vivian Appler
284. William Carson
285. William Epes
286. William Simpson
287. Willie Simmons
288. Yvonne Green
289. Zachary Shirley