

A Community Response to the Actions and the Non-Actions of the Indianapolis Police Department Pertaining to Brandon Johnson

Submitted by Elder Dr., Lionel T. Rush, D. Min.
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In the matter of the beating and the breach of human and civil rights upon and from Brandon Johnson, his Family has asked me to express the following statement and wishes to demand the below mentioned actions:

1. As a group of Community Leaders has recently called for external or outside investigation of these matters, and as they have requested further that this investigation comes from the federal government, we strongly urge a continuation of that call.
2. We acknowledge and appreciate the apology today from the Indianapolis Public Safety Director. However, we demand an apology from the City, its Chief Executive, the IMPD, and all of the officers that violated Brandon's rights and our community's trust.
3. We press for the immediate dismissal of EVERY OFFICER THAT WAS INVOLVED in this regrettable incident, not just Officer Jerry Piland. Although Mr. Piland's dismissal is proper, the other officers involved should face similar disciplinary action.
4. We further ask that the POLICE INTIMADATION BE HALTED, such as driving by the Johnson's home, especially at night, in both marked and unmarked vehicles. These are tactics that others who have gone through similar circumstances have expressed to us that they had to endure also.
5. We find the Chief's recommendation to start a citizen group to review police training practices to be woefully inadequate. We request a FEDERAL MONITOR OF POLICE BRUTALITY CASES FOR A MORE FORMAL EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT. This process has been employed when conditions of dis-trust exist between the Police Department and the Citizen Constituency, most notable in this regard is New York City circa 2000, when the incidents involving Louima, Dioblo, and Dorismond occurred. This we express as a standing component that can be used for all of the metroplex area police departments (i.e. Lawrence, Rocky Ripple, Capitol, etc.) which follow the lead of the IMPD. This Federal Monitor idea could also be triggered per incident.
6. We would like to know "What are the PERFORMANCE INDICATORS of the Police motto to 'Protect and Serve?'" Who are the Customers here and is the Citizenry getting "Good Customer Service?" And, is the BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE directed a

privileged group, while others just get kicked around? On this point, why didn't the supervisor on the scene of the Brandon Johnson incident ensure that the officers on the scene acted appropriately? Aren't all supervisors supposed to do this?

7. We agree that effective Community Policing is vital to law enforcement; however, this goal can only be achieved through trust and mutual respect. We also want to know "What MEASUREMENT(S) does the IMPD use to determine the level of "Public Trust" that exists (or that does not exist) in this Community -- One cannot have effective Community- Policing in an environment of COMMUNITY NO-TRUST, or COMMUNITY LOW-TRUST, in or for the Police Department!

8. We feel strongly that Brandon and many other citizens were and continue to be victimized by a failed Recruitment, Retention, and Development policy for the hiring of "appropriate officers," who would really "protect and serve" the citizens of Indianapolis, Indiana. In this way, we strongly urge that an immediate review of police staffing policies occur to weed out NEPOTISM, RACISM, and SEXISM, AND THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AND CRONYISM. These factors are part of the root cause of incidents like Brandon Johnson's beating.

9. We urge that an ongoing record of vital Police functions be maintained, including crime reports, enforcement actions, and responses to 911 calls and especially stop-and-search, stop-and-frisk incidents, and uses of force incident to arrest. The purpose of these records, when they are accurate, is to be able to identify and monitor the "Street Behavior of Police" including trends of selective enforcement and use of force.

10. Finally, we express our outrage at the way Brandon's family and our community have been brutalized and maligned, and this treatment, with very few exceptions, seems to have been and to be the consensus, or the CULTURE, of the present Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Humbly Submitted by,

Elder Lionel T. Rush, D. Min.
For the Community and Family of Brandon Johnson