

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington, DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbsci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:

Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

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For Immediate Release

The National Black Church Initiative Launches GoFundMe Campaign to raise \$750,000 to Set Up A Commission Against Police Brutality

We're going to police the police

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, has set up a GoFundMe to establish a Commission to Stop Police Brutality. The National Black Church Initiative is setting up a Commission on Police Brutality to investigate the police who are involved in the controversial shootings of African American males and females. Too often we take the word of the US Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the police. It has become evident that we can no longer take their word and that we must set up a commission in every city where there has been a shooting so that we can look at the evidence and come up with our own conclusions on what has happened and the merits of the case.

In no way will we violate the law, we will only deal with evidence that we have dug up and that is in the public domain. We will also make known the background of any police officer who is accused of this crime. We believe that there are many police officers who have a history of abuse and we want to be able to call them out. Their background has a lot to do with why they are in this situation. This is why we must investigate their background to look for any link between their background abuse and the situation they currently find themselves in. We need the money to pay for investigators as well as administrative staff, webmasters and other related materials and personnel to be able to share this information on a timely basis. Remember this is not one

Commission it will be multiple Commissions staffed by citizens in those cities, set up in the same area where the shooting took place. In the words of the late Johnny Cochran, “we must police the police.”

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “We are taking this step because we are tired of just issuing Press Releases about the tragic deaths of our brothers and sisters at the hands of murderous racist white cops. These Commissions that we establish will give us the power to unearth new evidence and we will share it with District Attorneys to bring new charges against these police officers. And if the District Attorney of those areas fail us we will organize ourselves to make sure we kick them out of office. We are not afraid, we will not fear and we will demand our Rights as citizens of this great country. We are doing this in honor of the deaths of our brothers Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and all who have been victimized by this system called justice.”

If we find additional evidence we will turn it over to the local District Attorney, the US Attorney and the US Attorney General for further review. We will also post it online.

We are tired of doing the same thing over and over again, this Commission will investigate every single complaint that black people have against the police department and we will publish our findings and sue if necessary those individuals who violate the Civil Rights of African Americans. The late Johnny Cochran said that you have to police the police, what he meant is that you have to make sure that you have the same power to investigate the police if the police are investigating you and we are going to make this gets done and making it public so that everyone will have access to the evidence. All of our Commissions will have a licensed lawyer to guide us and we will write letters on behalf of any family who is concerned that they have not received a fair shake from law enforcement. This does not mean that we will not march, navigate and employ tactical nonviolent strategies to make sure that every white murderous police that wants to shoot black people will get the full force of the law and the force of the Black Church.

We will work with all organizations who are for our people including our brothers and sisters who have put themselves in the frontline like Black Lives Matter and we salute activist actors like Jesse Williams. Remember the words of our brother Jesse,

“Now, this award – this is not for me. This is for the real organizers all over the country – the activists, the civil rights attorneys, the struggling parents, the families, the teachers, the students that are realizing that a system built to divide and impoverish and destroy us cannot stand if we do. It’s kind of basic mathematics – the more we learn about who we are and how we got here, the more we will mobilize.

Now, this is also in particular for the black women in particular who have spent their lifetimes dedicated to nurturing everyone before themselves. We can and will do better for you.

Now, what we’ve been doing is looking at the data and we know that police somehow manage to deescalate, disarm and not kill white people every day. So what’s going to happen is we are going to have equal rights and justice in our own country or we will restructure their function and ours.

Now... I got more y’all – yesterday would have been young Tamir Rice’s 14th birthday so I don’t want to hear any more about how far we’ve come when paid public servants can pull a drive-by on 12 year old playing alone in the park in broad daylight, killing him on television and then going home to make a

sandwich. Tell Rekia Boyd how it's so much better than it is to live in 2012 than it is to live in 1612 or 1712. Tell that to Eric Garner. Tell that to Sandra Bland. Tell that to Dorian Hunt.

Now the thing is, though, all of us in here getting money – that alone isn't gonna stop this. Alright, now dedicating our lives, dedicating our lives to getting money just to give it right back for someone's brand on our body when we spent centuries praying with brands on our bodies, and now we pray to get paid for brands on our bodies.

There has been no war that we have not fought and died on the front lines of. There has been no job we haven't done. There is no tax they haven't leveed against us – and we've paid all of them. But freedom is somehow always conditional here. "You're free," they keep telling us. But she would have been alive if she hadn't acted so... free. Now, freedom is always coming in the hereafter, but you know what, though, the hereafter is a hustle. We want it now.

And let's get a couple things straight, just a little side note – the burden of the brutalized is not to comfort the bystander. That's not our job, alright – stop with all that. If you have a critique for the resistance, for our resistance, then you better have an established record of critique of our oppression. If you have no interest, if you have no interest in equal rights for black people then do not make suggestions to those who do. Sit down.

We've been floating this country on credit for centuries, yo, and we're done watching and waiting while this invention called whiteness uses and abuses us, burying black people out of sight and out of mind while extracting our culture, our dollars, our entertainment like oil – black gold, ghettoizing and demeaning our creations then stealing them, gentrifying our genius and then trying us on like costumes before discarding our bodies like rinds of strange fruit. The thing is though... the thing is that just because we're magic doesn't mean we're not real. Thank you."

ABOUT NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.