

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

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The National Black Church Initiative Supports Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson in Light of University of Maryland Student Beating

Washington DC - The appalling abuse of University of Maryland student John J. McKenna on March 3rd at the hands of Prince George County police officers has been promptly, properly, and authoritatively handled by PG County Executive Jack Johnson. The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 churches, praises Johnson's competent response to this alarming abuse.

While the video footage of the incident is disturbing, it brings to light the importance of just leadership. In the immediate aftermath of the beating Johnson expressed his shock, underlining that the conduct of the officers would not be tolerated. His straightforward acknowledgement of the wrongdoing on the part of the Prince George County officers is indicative of his resolve to address problems head-on, never shying away from hard truths. We cannot afford to waste time posturing, excusing, or ignoring violence in any form - our elected officials must enforce this basic tenant of civility.

We should all be outraged when we see someone fall victim to abuse, especially at the hands of authority figures that are in place to protect us. The National Black Church Initiative has witnessed the pervasive violence perpetrated on and by African Americans in this country and will not stand idly by, even though in this case the victim was not black. Abuse is colorblind – we must all stand strong to eradicate brutality and promote peace.

Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI President, states, "This is the type of consistent leadership shown by Jack Johnson over the years, beginning with his position as county attorney. Jack Johnson

clearly understands that every citizen needs to be protected. On the other hand, he will not allow the media to cause him to overreact and punish law enforcement officials not involved in the crime. He has illustrated that he can and will punish officers when necessary. I am committed to seeing this through to the end, making sure that every aggressor is dealt with, however, given the response from the County Executive Jack Johnson and the Prince George's County Chief of Police, I believe that we are well on our way to ensure that this case is properly handled.”

Under the secure leadership of Jack Johnson, the National Black Church Initiative has full faith that this incident will follow a just course - punishing those who committed misconduct and making whole those who were wronged. We have a duty to uplift those who preserve our safety and promote justice – Jack Johnson has illustrated that he has the community's best interest at heart.

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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. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative'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.