

# National Black Church Initiative

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July 8, 2016  
**For Immediate Release**

## **The National Black Church Initiative Pleads with National Latino Organizations to Break Their Silence on the Philando Castile case and Denounce the Violence Visited on African Americans by the Hands of the Police**

*The Latino community needs our support*

**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, is pleading with the National Latino Organizations to denounce the violence against African Americans by the hands of the police. In addition, we are asking them to alert their community of the value of African Americans to the forthcoming policy issues like immigration and education that the Latino community is deeply concerned about.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “I am saddened and very surprised at the silence that is coming from the Latino Leadership on the issue of police brutality when they themselves are an object of it. Don’t they understand that we are in the same boat on this issue? And without denouncing members of their community and the violence that they perpetuate, they can gravely undermine the tentative bond that we in the African American and Latino communities have with one another over some important policy issues going forward. So again I plead with them to denounce violence especially in the Philando Castile case where

that Latino officer practically murdered Mr. Castile as his brave fiancé Diamond Reynolds filmed and narrated that extraordinary video while her 4-year old daughter looked on. What does it take for our Latino brothers to come to our rescue?”

Many of our ministers have expressed disappointment with the lack of leadership coming from the Latino community for not denouncing the violence that has constantly been directed at the African American community. We do understand and appreciate the vast majority of Latinos and their sentiments as they march hand in hand with African Americans all over this country denouncing police brutality but the Latino National Leadership has been virtually silent. Especially when it comes to Latino police officers or individuals who have taken the lives of African Americans and gotten away with it. During the George Zimmerman case this organization chastised the Latino Leadership for not denouncing Zimmerman’s murderous behavior towards Trayvon Martin. Now we have a videotaped case of two officers, one Latino and one white, who literally murdered Philando Castile. Officer Jeronimo Yanez, who is caught on video tape after shooting Mr. Castile 4 times is trying to concoct a story that Mr. Castile was reaching for his gun.

How can some in the Latino community want us to be supportive on their stance of immigration and other issues when some of them are just as racist as white cops are towards African Americans? The Black Church recognizes this double standard and we will not tolerate it from anyone white or Latino. So again we call on: Mexican-American Political Association, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), League of United Latin American Citizens, The Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc., Diamante, Inc., Stop the Violence Increase the Peace based in Los Angeles, CA. A Non-Profit Serving Southern California, Latino Officers Association Florida, National Latino Peace Officers Association, Radio Bilingue, National Council of La Raza, National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Hispanic Federation, National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, and other Latino Organizations to issue a public denunciation of racism and the killing of Mr. Castile. The Black Church demands that they all do this.

### **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](http://www.naltblackchurch.com).