

## African American Coalition of Indianapolis Calls for Special Prosecutor, Grand Jury Reform and Continued Dialogue with Law Enforcement

Now that Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department has provided information to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, we have reached a new phase with the investigation of the tragic shooting death of Aaron Bailey. MCPO has received IMPD's criminal investigation and the Marion County Coroner's report on the cause of death. In this new phase of the process, investigators assigned to MCPO are reviewing and requesting any additional information to support the procedure for determining charges against Officers Dinnson and Howard. We have been informed that the MCPO has obtained criminal convictions for over 40 police officers in Marion County. While we appreciate the successful prosecutions of police misconduct in those previous cases, no officer has been charged for a fatal police action shooting in Marion County in recent history. This is of critical concern for the community.

We, along with the family of Aaron Bailey, urge Prosecutor Terry Curry to step aside and turn the case over to a special prosecutor from an Indiana county with a large urban center. The appointment of a special prosecutor is consistent with national best practices identified in President Obama's 21st Century Policing Report. A special prosecutor would restore trust in the outcome of a currently flawed process for prosecuting law enforcement officers involved in police action shootings. As we advocate for a just process for all involved, we caution those in power to consider that a flawed process will only serve to undermine the community's faith in the criminal justice system.

Thus far, it is our understanding that a grand jury may be impaneled. We remain concerned about this possibility in light of the fact that no law enforcement officer in Marion County has been charged for any of the fatal shooting deaths involving Black people that have occurred in recent years, and that only one grand jury trial involving a police officer resulted in a conviction during the incumbent prosecutor's term. Past and present history has shown us a combination of local prosecutors and grand juries result in non-indictments for cases like this one.

We further recommend that the state legislature review grand jury procedures for police action shootings. While grand juries generally have a high indictment rate, this is not the case for police action shootings of Black people. This anomaly undermines faith in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. This trust is not only critical for community policing but also the cooperation the prosecutor's office needs to have as they pursue justice for the community. For years legislators have presented ideas for addressing the grand jury process for police action shootings. It is time that the Indiana General Assembly address this issue.

Lastly, while we appreciate the information that IMPD has shared with community leaders, we strongly encourage IMPD to continue communicating pertinent information that does not jeopardize the ongoing investigation. The community