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Timeline

Black Parents Workshop Advocacy on Police Use of Force & School District Disciplinary Policy

- July 3, 2017: Black Parents Workshop Chairman Walter Fields calls upon the Township of Maplewood to make public video of the July 5, 2016 police incident with Black youth.
- July 3, 2017: The Black Parents Workshop joins the MapSO Freedom School, Peoples Organization for Progress (POP) and Black Lives Matters-NJ in a protest in front of the Maplewood Police Department headquarters to demand the release of the July 5, 2016 video.
- July 13, 2017 The Black Parents Workshop reiterates its demand that the Township of Maplewood make public the video of the July 5, 2016 incident.
- July 31, 2017 The Black Parents Workshop demands that the Township of Maplewood remove Police Chief Robert Cimino
- August 1, 2017 Black Parents Workshop Chairman Walter Fields addresses the Maplewood Township Committee at its regular meeting and calls for the Township to address issues of police misconduct
- August 2, 2017 The Black Parents Workshop writes Attorney General Christopher Porrino and urges him to assume oversight of the Maplewood Police Department
- August 7, 2017 The Black Parents Workshop writes Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, co-sponsors of Assembly bill A-1114, to announce its opposition to the legislation. The organization cites deficiencies in the legislation that places the onus on students for interactions with police officers while offering no comprehensive reforms of police practices.

- August 17, 2017 The Black Parents Workshop receives a letter from Assemblywoman Oliver that states in part “While A1114 was voted out of the Assembly, there have been no efforts to have movement of the bill in the NJ Senate.”
- 2018 Several Black parents contact the Black Parents Workshop over concern that their student has been unfairly targeted through the student disciplinary process and subjected to searches without parental consent.
- The Black Parents Workshop communicates its concern and that of parents to the administration of the South Orange-Maplewood School District, and in one instance, attends a meeting with a parent and district personnel and takes strong exception to the manner in which a Black student was profiled and targeted in Columbia High School.
- April 25, 2018 The Black Parents Workshop writes State Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and expresses its concerns over the racial profiling of Black students in the South Orange-Maplewood School District through the student disciplinary process.
- November 30, 2018 NJ.com publishes an Op-Ed by Black Parents Workshop Chairman Walter Fields in reaction to the publishing of data on police use of force by NJ Advance Media.
- December 1, 2018 The Black Parents Workshop writes Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and calls for a moratorium on the placement of police officers in public schools in light of data on police use of force published by NJ Advance Media.