

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) Black Caucus' Statement Regarding FCPD's Fatal Shooting of Timothy Johnson on February 22, 2023.

FAIRFAX COUNTY - With the recent release of body-worn camera footage of the killing of Timothy Johnson - an unarmed Black man shot and killed by Fairfax County Police on February 22, 2023, the FCDC Black Caucus extends its ongoing support and prayers to the Johnson family.

The footage, the content of which is deeply troubling, displays a clear need for FCPD to re-evaluate all policies related to suspect pursuits, use of force, officer accountability, and timely dissemination of information to the community. The avoidable death of Timothy Johnson shows that, when pressure-tested against the reality of how these situations occur in the field, the current policies are insufficient to maintain a sense of safety for people of color in our county.

In times of loss and deep despair is when leadership must act swiftly and with intention. Mr. Johnson's unnecessary death at the hands of a FCPD officer has heightened mistrust of the very people who are sworn to protect us. We demand leadership and accountability from FCPD and our elected officials. In its capacity to mobilize and encourage Black voter participation in the democratic process in Fairfax County, the Black Caucus looks forward to hearing the Board of Supervisors' plans to engage the Black community and all other communities of color in repairing public trust and listening to the needs of those most disproportionately harmed when deciding on the best way forward. **We will be inviting each elected Supervisor to engage directly with the Black Caucus to discuss a plan of action.**

In May 2021, the Black Caucus [opposed the leadership of FCPD Chief Kevin Davis](#) due to his history of use or justification of excessive force in policing. Sharing the results from the current [Police Executive Research Forum investigation](#) is another important step that the Board of Supervisors must take in demonstrating a commitment to transparency and fairness in holding its community officials accountable for the failures of the organizations they lead.

We urge all voters to use their voice in passing the [George Floyd Justice in Policing Act](#) to ensure law enforcement is properly trained and held accountable when violating the human rights of those they are employed to protect.

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