



Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr
Chairman of the Board

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Press Release

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For interview opportunities please contact Keisha Ray or DeMark Liggins.

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Atlanta, GA- SCLC President and CEO Dr. Charles Steele, Jr. “Memphis Police Killing Shows how deeply embedded racism is in the police culture!”

I am sickened and saddened by the death of Tyre Nichols. I am even sicker over the fact that the officers involved were all African American. The goal of inclusion and desegregation was to foster understanding and fairness. In this instance, its proven to foster additional hatred and devaluation of Black lives. I am at a loss for words to describe the sense of betrayal I feel. All through the 70s and 80s we pushed for hiring of black police officers and firefighters, to ensure public safety was meted out more fairly.

Its amazing that 5 black men can learn to hate and disregard the lives of their fellow black man. Forget their oath, forget professionalism, where was their humanity. Can systemic racism really make black men hate other black men to the point of barbarism in the line of duty?

While I am encouraged that the Memphis authorities, including the Chief of Police and the District Attorney have moved swiftly to bring these violent criminals to justice, I hope they and others will move just as expeditiously against white officers who perpetrate such violent acts.

SCLC President and CEO- Dr. Charles Steele, Jr.