

NAACP NEWS

www.naacpms.org

Derrick Johnson
State President



Mississippi State Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: 601-353-8452

MS NAACP Media • media@naacpms.org

NAACP Calls for Federal Investigation Into Jonathan Sanders Death

The Mississippi State Conference NAACP and the Clark County NAACP are extremely disappointed that a Clark County Grand Jury did not indict Officer Kevin Herrington in the choking death of Jonathan Sanders. Clark County District Attorney Bilbo Mitchell convened a grand jury last week after receiving results from a review of the case by the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI). The Grand Jury concluded its review on Thursday and the decision was released this morning.

Derrick Johnson, MS State Conference President says that the fight for justice in this case is not over. “We will continue to stand by Jonathan Sanders’s family and the Stonewall community as they continue to seek justice in this case,” says Johnson. The MS State Conference NAACP will meet with the family and attorneys for the family to review case evidence in order to determine the next steps.

Clark County NAACP President Rev. Lawrence Kirksey believes that an outside investigation by the Department of Justice will be the only way to resolve this tragedy. “There are too many unanswered questions in Jonathan Sanders’s case and Bilbo Mitchell has not answered any of these questions for the family,” said Rev. Kirksey. One of those questions revolves around the reason that Mr. Sanders was stopped. “The D.A. has not told the family or the community the reason that he was stopped in the first place,” Kirksey continued. Officer Herrington was not on duty when the incident happened.

“In this era of the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement, it’s a shame that local authorities continue to demonstrate their belief that black lives don’t really matter. We have to hold these officials accountable to administering equal justice that respects the life of every individual, regardless of race,” Johnson continued.

###

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. For more information about the Mississippi NAACP or news stories, call 601-353-8452 or log on to www.naacpms.org. Like us on Facebook by searching Mississippi NAACP and follow us on Twitter @MSNAACP.