



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mississippi State Conference NAACP Calls for Extensive and Transparent Investigation in the Death of Hanged Scott County Man

Jackson, Miss. (February 14, 2018) – The Mississippi State Conference NAACP (MS NAACP) is calling for a full investigation into the death of Willie Andrew Jones, Jr., an African-American man whose body was discovered hanging from a tree in the front yard of a Scott County, Mississippi residence on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

The Scott County Sheriff's Office elected not to initially report the incident to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation until the following week and ruled Jones' death a suicide without the benefit of a full investigation. MS NAACP President, Charles R. Hampton, met with the Jones and Townsend families and with their support is petitioning the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an extensive and transparent investigation into the cause of death.

The Jones and Townsend families deserve a complete and thorough accounting of the facts surrounding this incident, and the MS NAACP supports their request for a full investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The citizens of Scott County and the State of Mississippi cannot afford to allow the facts in this case to be obscured. Every Mississippian, regardless of race or residence, is entitled to the full protection of the law, which includes a full examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of a citizen.

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