



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 31, 2020**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
DelawareNAACPcommunications@yahoo.com**

### **Delaware NAACP State Conference of Branches Response to Recent Police Killings**

Wilmington, DE— The Delaware NAACP State Conference of Branches stands in solidarity with other NAACP branches and advocacy organizations across the nation in expression of our outrage in connection to the senseless and cruel murders of Ahmaud Arbery by a former police officer and his son in Brunswick, Georgia; Breonna Taylor by Louisville, Kentucky police officers; and most recently, George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While one of the officers involved in Mr. Floyd's murder has been arrested for 3rd degree murder and manslaughter, we believe that the actions of the other three officers involved are inexcusable and warrant criminal charges being brought against them as well. Sadly, these are just a few of the thousands of cases where police officers were able to operate without impunity.

The Delaware NAACP State Conference of Branches is concerned that the Delaware Code provides Delaware police officers extra latitude in the use of excessive and deadly force, all of which have been enforced repeatedly to protect police officers from criminal prosecution. Examples include the widely known use of deadly force upon Jeremy McDole by City of Wilmington police officers and more recently, the 2020 beating of teenager, Roger Brown by New Castle County police officers. The laws that we are specifically referring to are:

1. Delaware Code Title 11- Section 464, which states in part "the use of force upon or toward another person is justifiable when the defendant believes that such force is immediately necessary for the purpose of protecting the defendant against the use of unlawful force by the other person on the present occasion."
2. Delaware Code Title 11- Section 467, which states in part "the use of force upon or toward the person of another is justifiable when (1) the defendant is making and arrest or assisting in making and arrest and believes that such force is immediately necessary to effect the arrest."
3. Delaware Code Title 11- Chapter 92, which is the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. It provides protection in investigations that are not afforded to all citizens and allows the results of investigations to be concealed from the public.

The Delaware NAACP State Conference of Branches believes that the majority of police officers act in a professional manner and perform their jobs with integrity. However, in an effort to prevent future occurrences throughout Delaware and impede situations comparable to the George Floyd

murder and its aftermath, we are calling upon Governor, John Carney, Attorney General Kathleen Jennings, and the Delaware General Assembly to begin the process of abolishing, with all deliberate speed, the three laws cited.

In addition to stipulating the abolishment of the three laws cited, the Delaware NAACP State Conference of Branches submits the following peremptory requests.

1. The daily use of body cameras for all police officers throughout the state of Delaware.
2. The establishment of a civilian police review board within each police agency that has subpoena power.
3. The implementation of an Imminent Danger policy that directs police officers to not place themselves in a situation where they have to use deadly force.
4. The recruitment and hiring of Black and Brown police officers that better reflect the demographics of our communities.
5. The ban of the use of knee holds as acceptable in Use of Force Continuums within all police departments.
6. A review of the state of Delaware's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to determine if the so-called Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights is in direct conflict with the spirit and intention of FOIA. In our view, it is and requires abolishment accordingly.
7. A review of all police department's records of disciplining or charging officers charged with misconduct.
8. Increased crisis intervention services and ongoing proactive mental health services for police officers.

As the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized Civil Rights organization in the nation, the NAACP has fought tirelessly to improve the quality of life for minorities and to achieve equal justice for all. As part of our continued efforts, we will fight aggressively for the repeal of the three laws referenced herein and will also promote the implementation and enforcement of policies that ensure all Delaware police officers exhibit high professional standards and respect for all citizens.

cc: Honorable John Carney, Governor  
Honorable Kathleen Jennings, Attorney General  
Honorable Members of the General Assembly

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**OUR MISSION** - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 and is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.