



Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage  
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### The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage Statement on Charges in Breonna Taylor Case

On March 13th, Breonna Taylor was shot to death during a police raid just after midnight. More than six months later, a grand jury has decided to charge only one of the officers, Brett Hankison, involved in the deadly police raid. All of the officers involved in the raid fired their guns, yet only Brett Hankison was indicted. To make matters worse, Hankison was only indicted on 3 counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree. For many, those charges are not enough.

Breonna Taylor was peacefully resting in her own apartment. She had every right to assume that her life was not in danger. She had every right to believe that she was safe and protected in her own home. Tragically, that was not the reality of the night. We have seen far too often where—instead of being protected—our communities seem to be viewed as enemies.

Our community continues to suffer trauma and injustice day after day, year after year. Ten years ago, another police raid led to the murder of an innocent Black person. In May 2010, 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones was shot in the head within seconds of a police raid on the wrong apartment. In the subsequent trials, the officer who recklessly shot Aiyana was never found guilty of her murder. Aiyana had her whole life ahead of her. She would have been 18 years old if she was alive today. Like Aiyana, Breonna Taylor had so much more life to live. Yet, her life was unnecessarily cut short before the world could see her full potential. The time has long come for the gap between law enforcement and our community to be bridged through intentional strategies.

When will we see the day where radical and imaginative law enforcement reform efforts take place? When will communities of African heritage live freely and not have to stand on edge, weary of predetermined outcomes that continually highlight injustices within our system? Something is wrong in this nation when the “justice” consistently meted out to communities of African heritage does not match the justice this country purportedly stands for.

I am growing tired of saying this, yet it still needs to be said; we cannot afford to repeat outdated and unactionable solutions. We all have to seriously recommit to working on sustainable solutions.

Calling for True Justice,

Dr. Nerita Hughes  
Chair  
The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

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The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;
- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;
- Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;
- Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule or order; and
- Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.

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