



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact:
Angelica Hutchins
mwblsa.communications@nblsa.org

STATEMENT ON THE POLICE MURDER OF JAYLAND WALKER

AKRON, OHIO – In response to the horrific police murder of Jayland Walker, *the Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association (MWBLSA) released the following statement:*

On June 27, eight Akron police officers heinously shot and killed 25-year old Jayland Walker, an unarmed Black man. After a failed attempt to stop Mr. Walker’s car for an alleged “traffic and equipment violation,” police pursued his vehicle for about seven minutes and initiated a brief foot chase, at which point the officers opened fire: shooting at Mr. Walker more than 90 times and wounding him with over 60 bullets.¹ Mr. Walker had an *unloaded* handgun in his car and was *unarmed* after fleeing his vehicle.²

On July 2, Akron Police Chief Stephen Mylett released portions of the body camera footage from the 13 officers on the scene, in which they can be heard *firing non-stop at Mr. Walker for seven seconds*.³ The eight officers who fired their weapons have been placed on administrative leave, and privately, the Police Chief has stated that he hasn’t seen any evidence to suggest that the officers’ lives were threatened.⁴

Once again, we find ourselves devastated and traumatized by the state-sponsored execution of a young, unarmed Black man – murdered by police for doing something ordinary. From driving, like Mr. Walker, to sleeping to standing outside, Black people in every corner of our nation have been—and continue to be—the target of mistakenly placed police violence, falling victim to racially biased officers who perceive Black people, especially Black men, as threatening and dangerous.

The excessive and unwarranted use of force by police must end. The loss of Mr. Walker’s life to senseless police brutality demonstrates even further the immense need for sweeping policy reform to address our nation’s repeated failure to protect Black Americans. Justice must prevail.

The Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association demand:

- 1) The Ohio Attorney General’s Office assign a special prosecutor to investigate the case;**
- 2) All officers involved in the gruesome killing of Mr. Walker be held accountable; and,**
- 3) Reformed policies surrounding traffic stops and vehicular pursuits in all 50 states.**

In MWBLSA Service,

Iman Davenport
Chair of MWBLSA

Katrina Morrison
Attorney General of MWBLSA

¹ Cineas, Fabiola, *What we know about the deadly police shooting of Jayland Walker*, Vox, <https://www.vox.com/2022/7/7/23197430/jayland-walker-police-shooting-akron-ohio-footage>

² McGraw, D. and Vander Ploeg, L., *Videos of Jayland Walker Shooting by Police Raise More Questions*, The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/03/us/akron-police-shooting-jayland-walker-video.html>

³ Cineas, *supra*.

⁴ McGraw and Vander Ploeg, *supra*.i