



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF LEADING ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DIRECTIVES REGARDING UNIFORM STATEWIDE PROCEDURES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR CONDUCTING POLICE USE-OF-FORCE INVESTIGATIONS AND BODY WORN CAMERAS**

Trenton, New Jersey—Today, a coalition of leading civil rights, advocacy, and law enforcement organizations, including The New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Action Network, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, the New Jersey Black Issues Convention, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and New Jersey Communities Forward, collectively support Attorney General John J. Hoffman's announcement of new directives regarding uniform statewide procedures and best practices for conducting police use-of-force investigations and body worn cameras. The Attorney General's announcement is a significant step forward in strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve by (1) providing important guidance and standards for conducting investigations into police use of force and the implementation of the new technology of body worn cameras and (2) committing significant financial support for these important initiatives.

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD T. SMITH, PRESIDENT OF NAACP NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE:**

Today's announcement is an important step towards building a partnership between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and we hope it will encourage increased transparency and collaboration.

**STATEMENT OF PASTOR STEFFIE BARTLEY, NEW JERSEY CHAPTER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK:**

We welcome the engagement of the Attorney General on these challenging issues and we will continue to watch and learn as we go forward. It is our hope that, through these efforts, New Jersey can serve as a model for the nation.

STATEMENT OF RYAN P. HAYGOOD, CEO AND PRESIDENT OF NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE:

We believe that law enforcement in New Jersey can and must be more than peacekeepers. They can join with the communities they serve to be peacemakers. Today's announcement helps frame public safety as part of our vision of empowering healthy communities. This announcement must also be part of a broader reform effort that includes law enforcement de-escalation, racial bias and cultural competency training, comprehensive data collection, and increased accountability in response to police misconduct. We are committed to continuing to work with the Attorney General and our constituents to help build and empower healthy communities.

STATEMENT OF REVA FOSTER, CHAIR OF NEW JERSEY BLACK ISSUES CONVENTION:

We commend the Attorney General for his willingness to consider various community perspectives in shaping policies that will move us forward. We are prepared to continue to engage on the issues that affect our communities on a daily basis.

STATEMENT OF JILES SHIP, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES:

NOBLE has long been an advocate for body worn cameras as a way to ensure the integrity of the law enforcement process and to provide the community with confidence that they have a clear window into the actions of law enforcement officials. We commend the Attorney General for this step forward.

STATEMENT OF JAMES E. JOHNSON, FOUNDING MEMBER OF NEW JERSEY COMMUNITIES FORWARD:

Today's announcement marks an important development and signals how vital it is that law enforcement and the communities they serve remain continually engaged. While we don't expect that law enforcement and the communities will agree on everything at all times, we do believe that it is essential that efforts like this continue to take place and we commend the Attorney General for his commitment to addressing these important issues.

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities.

National Action Network is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the Nation with chapters throughout the entire United States. Founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, nationality or gender.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice is a Newark-based urban research and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of New Jersey's urban areas and residents. Established in 1999 by the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation, the Institute provides a dynamic and independent voice for change necessary to create just, vibrant, and inclusive urban communities throughout New Jersey.

The New Jersey Black Issues Convention is an umbrella organization for groups that advocate on behalf of African-American communities. NJBIC seeks to establish a network of cooperation and communication among all Black organizations in New Jersey for the regular exchange of information year round.

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) serves as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to Justice by Action. NOBLE has nearly 60 chapters and represents over 4,000 members worldwide that represent chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, municipal law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice practitioners.

NJ Communities Forward is a non-partisan initiative created by concerned citizens to enhance safety and increase economic opportunity in New Jersey communities. This holistic approach seeks to build partnerships including dialogue between law enforcement and the communities in which they serve.