



## Statement from the NOAH Criminal Justice Task Force

### “Plea Deal For Andrew Delke A Step Backward”

---

The Criminal Justice Task Force of NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope) believes it is right to make a statement about the recent Andrew Delke plea deal. NOAH has worked for social justice and equity since 2015.

The 3-year-plea deal in response to charges of manslaughter for the killing of Daniel Hambrick on July 26, 2018 that was offered to Andrew Delke on July 2, 2021, by Davidson County’s District Attorney, Glenn Funk, falls short of genuine legal justice. The Daniel Hambrick Family is right to feel anger and frustration. A 3-year plea bargain keeps Nashville from learning what really occurred. No jury will ever hear the full story. The Hambrick family understandably calls this decision by the D.A. a “slap on the wrist.”

NOAH shares with the Hambrick family a sense of outrage.

How can any young Black person living in Nashville ever trust the police again? The plea-arrangement Delke signed on July 2, 2021 is a step backward in racial relations in Nashville. It’s an attempt to keep a lid on racial tension. But it won’t work. Racial equality doesn’t exist via pre-trial guilty plea deals.

The criminal/legal system of justice in Nashville is at a turning point, a chance to rethink how its citizens of color are treated.

NOAH will continue to work toward real justice. We ask all citizens – black and white – to question police training that encourages officers to feel threatened by simple hunches or suspicions. We ask Metro Nashville Police Department to retrain officers in use of deadly force as a first response.

Nashville deserves police officers who have been given adequate training and support. With training that honors every life. MNPD could learn from this tragic life lost – that each life is sacred. Black lives DO MATTER – then, now, and into Nashville’s future.