**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement Regarding the Detention of Jeremiah Blanks**

**United States - October 9, 2024 -** We wish to express our deepest sympathies to the family of Diondre Overton during this profoundly difficult time. The loss of a life is always tragic, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Overton family as well as the broader Greensboro community that has been impacted by this incident.

It has come to our attention that information has been prematurely circulated by the media and law enforcement, implying that Jeremiah Blanks has been formally charged in connection with this incident. To clarify, Jeremiah has not been arraigned or charged with any crime at this time.

He is currently awaiting an extradition hearing, and judicial proceedings will follow according to the standard judicial process.

We are gravely concerned that the premature release of information by the Guilford County Sheriff's Office and the district attorney's office serves to unfairly influence the public and taint the potential jury pool. Such actions may compromise the integrity of the legal process and pose a risk to Mr. Blanks' right to a fair and impartial trial. Historically, young Black men have been and continue to be subject to undue prejudice in the court of public opinion, and it is critical that we avoid repeating these injustices.

While we fully acknowledge the gravity of the situation and the community's desire for resolution, we urge all parties to refrain from drawing conclusions before all relevant information has been adjudicated in a court of law. While feelings are running high we ask for caution and level heads. Continued threats against the life of Mr. Blanks and his family both immediate and extended only amplifies the point of concern in the community is safety for all. We trust that the legal system will reveal the full truth while providing the accused his Constitutional rights for Due Process of Law.

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