



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**  
**NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

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Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II  
President

Rev. Michelle A. Laws  
Executive Director

December 5, 2014

Dear Governor McCrory, Senators Hagan and Burr, Senator-elect Tillis, U.S. Congress-persons, State Senate and House leaders,

We write to you today, on behalf of the NC NAACP and the Moral Monday Forward Together Movement, to express our discontentment with the current state of law enforcement and community relations in North Carolina. We demand change in communities where lives have been tragically lost due to excessive force by police like in the cases of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Jonathan Ferrell, a former Florida A&M football player shot multiple times and killed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police while simply seeking help after a car accident, and Jesus Huerta, who police say shot himself while handcuffed in a police car in Durham.

There are fundamental flaws in the unbridled authorization of police officers to use force against individuals who are not involved in the commission of a violent felony and are not posing an immediate physical threat to the officers or a third party. There is also a fundamental flaw in the absence of an independent review mechanism which is deliberately designed to avoid effective over-sight of police misconduct allegation. As to both flaws, there needs to be immediate structural reforms in order that these flaws be rectified and addressed.

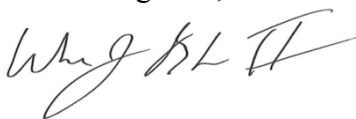
We strongly encourage our elected officials to support the following recommendations for local police departments:

- **Special prosecutors, who are not politically connected to the local police department, to handle police shooting challenges;**
- **Mandatory training on racial bias and police use of force;**
- **The required use of police officer Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) to record every police-civilian encounter;**
- **Better accountability of the use and potential distribution and use of federal military weapons by local law enforcement;**
- **The universal use of dash cameras in police vehicles;**
- **Community training to educate residents of their right when dealing with law enforcement;**

- **Greater and more effective community oversight over local law enforcement and policing tactics; and**
- **The establishment of a law enforcement commission to review policing tactics that would include representatives from the most impacted communities.**

We ask that you work with us to seek justice and ensure that long term systemic change is brought throughout our community to address not only excessive force by law enforcement, but the underlying racial profiling that continues to occur throughout the state. We must honestly acknowledge, confront and address the systemic structures that maintain the remnants of racial segregation and dehumanization in this country, particularly in law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Forward Together,



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II  
President, NC NAACP



Mrs. Michelle Cotton Laws  
Executive Director, NC NAACP