



3020 Prosperity Church Road
PMB 248
Charlotte, NC 28269
aac.mcdp@gmail.com
www.aacofmeck.org

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African American Caucus Demands Policing Reforms from Charlotte City Leadership

CHARLOTTE, NC – In response to recent incidences of overzealous police, and police misconduct in the Charlotte metro area, the African American Caucus of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party ('AAC-MCDP" or "AAC") stands firm in its commitment to advocate for our community against these practices and the systemic racism embedded in the fiber of this nation's law enforcement institutions.

On July 14, the leadership of the AAC had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Lyles to discuss concerns regarding recent police practices and tactics, and determine a path forward to seek change to CMPD's operating policies. In response to that discussion, the AAC demands the following actions from Mayor Lyles, the Charlotte City Council, City Manager Marcus Jones, and new CMPD Chief John Jennings.

1. Immediate adoption of the 8 Can't Wait initiatives, to include:
 - a. Permanent ban on chokeholds and strangleholds;
 - b. Required de-escalation whenever possible to minimize use of force;
 - c. Require officers to issue a verbal warning before using deadly force;
 - d. Mandate that officers exhaust all alternatives means of resolution prior to resorting to deadly force;
 - e. Institute a duty to intervene in instances of police misconduct;
 - f. Ban officers from shooting at moving vehicles;
 - g. Establish clear policy restrictions on the use of police weapons and tactics;
 - h. Require public, comprehensive reporting each use of force and incidents of police misconduct.
2. Ban the use of tear gas and other measures in situations of peaceful protests (with the narrow exception for destruction of private property);

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3. Reallocate police funding to establish/enhance community, health, and social services tasked with intervening in situations where police are incapable or unprepared to serve;
4. Revamp community oversight board of police and provide subpoena authority;
5. Comprehensive review and overhaul of policing policies, strategies, and tactics by city leaders, law enforcement officials, and community/social justice advocates;
6. End the practice of allowing officers to serve “no-knock” warrants;
7. End qualified immunity for all law enforcement personnel;
8. Institute performance-based retirement payouts for all enforcement personnel, making retirement benefits contingent upon job performance (and eliminating/reducing benefits for officers terminated from service or cited for misconduct).

The AAC is committed to working with city leadership to address each of these demands. We will continue to push for change in our law enforcement system to protect the lives of Charlotte’s citizens and hold the agents of that system accountable for their actions.

The AAC-MCDP is an integral part of the Democratic Party Coalition of North Carolina. Our mission is to educate the African American community on political and community issues, to advocate for our members and the African American residents of Mecklenburg County, and to promote candidates and initiatives to shape the platform and policies of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party. For more information, please visit www.aacofmeck.org or email aac.mcdp@gmail.com.

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