



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAACP DISAPPOINTED IN ANTWON ROSE JURY VERDICT

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pennsylvania State Conference (NAACP PA), emphatically states our heartfelt sorrow for the Rose family and community for the homicide of their child, Antwon Rose, Jr. We are filled with emotion and disgust for the loss of this 17 year old unarmed black male in East Pittsburgh, PA, who was shot on June 19, 2018 while running away, by a white police officer. To the Rose family this is a loss they will never overcome, to the community a loss they will never forget.

On Saturday, March 23, the local headlines read, "The trial for the Homicide of ANTWON ROSE Jr. ended in a not guilty verdict today!"

Strikingly, this homicide occurred exactly 153 years to the day after the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. State of Texas – a day celebrated by many African Americans as an American Holiday. More generally, June 19th marks the emancipation of enslaved persons of African descent throughout the Confederate States of America. NAACP PA sees this as a reminder of how far we have come juxtaposed to how far we still have to go.

At this tragic time, NAACP PA applauds the effort of the Allegheny County District Attorney for filing charges against the former East Pittsburgh police officer, Michael Rosfeld, who shot young Antwon Rose in the back, arm, and side of the face as Rose ran from him. Mr. Zappala had promised the NAACP that an investigation would be conducted and, if criminal charges were warranted, he would pursue those charges. He did. The jury spoke. NAACP PA is displeased with the verdict.

The NAACP worked diligently behind the scenes, before the demonstrations held in Pittsburgh were even planned. National, state and local NAACP representatives, specifically the State Conference Criminal Justice Committee Chair, Greg Rogers, Esq., State President, Joan Duvall-Flynn, Ed. D, NAACP local branch presidents, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Stewart, as well as representation from the National NAACP staff and others met with Allegheny District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Allegheny County Sheriff William P. Mulken, and the Allegheny County Police Superintendent, Coleman McDonough, regarding law enforcement's responsibilities in protecting demonstrators and their right to protest and to prevent an over abundance of a show or use of force by officers.

NAACP PA also addressed the lack of Police Department Policies, or Standard Operational Procedures in some police departments in Allegheny County. As well, soon thereafter, NAACP PA met with PA State Attorney General Mr. Joshua D. Shapiro, to broaden this concern statewide. These law enforcement officers provided their complete support to the NAACP in assisting those departments in writing policies regarding various important directives including, pursuit, use of force, firearms, etc. All agreed to the need to put in place directives designed to prevent, or at least to hold accountable, individual police officers and

their departments from violating the rights of their citizens. NAACP PA, through its Criminal Justice Committee is currently working with police to write and implement those policies and to develop a training model.

The NAACP PA did not lead public demonstrations concerning the homicide of Antwon Rose. Our chosen course was to advocate that laws put in place because of prior demonstrations and the deaths of civil rights workers be followed and enforced and that our political leaders work to protect all citizens. Our work was successful.

NAACP PA is not deaf to the screams and tears calling for justice. We are not blind to the anguish felt in our communities. We are wholly resolved to be an advocate for justice. We will continue to hold elected officials accountable for enforcing laws for which advocates have struggled. However, if the time comes, and it is needed, we shall pursue the direct actions that have been used in the past to protect the rights of the general public.

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The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.