

AL NAACP NEWS

Alabama State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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ALABAMA NAACP STRONGLY CONDEMNS HOOVER POLICE SHOOTING

An African American male was shot and killed by Hoover Police at the Galleria Mall in Hoover, AL on Thanksgiving Day. Not only was an African American male shot and killed in response to an altercation and gunfire, but the wrong man was shot and killed. According to news reports, the Army soldier who was killed, was running as well as other shoppers in the mall, away from shots being fired. We have learned that many shoppers also drew their weapons in response to the shots being fired. But this one black male was the only one shot and killed by police.

The Alabama State Conference of the NAACP is calling on our legislators to create legislation to end excessive force against black and brown people. We have learned that the police officer has been placed on administrative leave, but real and lasting consequences need to be taken against police officers who use excessive force. The Alabama NAACP believes those officers should be immediately removed and never allowed employment with any police force or establishment where using a gun is a requirement.

Police officers must know the facts involved before pulling their weapons. Police officers must stop being trigger happy when it comes to our children. Police officers must stop being aggressive with young men of color and stop killing us. Police officers must use human rights tactics to engage who they believe is the perpetrator. A life has been lost because police do not see African Americans as humans.

“The headlines this morning read that the shooter is still at large.” This is a real problem, not just in Alabama, but in our country.” “We have accepted this as the norm and it is not normal to be in a police state. An innocent man is dead this morning because of implicit bias used against black and brown people. If we have a gun or not, black people are still treated in an inhumane way. Police officers must ask questions or at least use alternate forms or tactics to subdue their assailants. A kill shot is not necessary, and in this case, the wrong man was killed. Shooting in a crowd is unlawful and puts many at risk as we have learned an innocent man, a United States Soldier has lost his life to a reckless and uninformed police officer” said Benard Simelton, president of the Alabama NAACP. “We need to know the standard of procedures used in this case and why was this young man left on the floor to die without CPR being rendered to save his life,” added Simelton. Just last week, in Chicago, a security guard was attempting to stop a gunman at a bar and police killed the security guard because he was black.

The Alabama NAACP is calling on other organizations to join in this effort to put an end to extreme and excessive police force. “We are all human beings, and This is not what America stands for,” added Simelton. We will continue to update the community as new information becomes available.

- Benard Simelton, President of Alabama NAACP

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