**JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF TANISHA WHITE**

On November 5, 2018, Winnfield Police Officer Justin Curry shot disabled Army Veteran Tanisha White with a taser in her right eye. After permanently losing sight in this eye, Ms. White must now have it removed. Rather than conducting a transparent investigation of Officer Curry’s use of force that cost this veteran her sight and eye itself, the Winnfield Police Department and other investigative bodies are relying on the familiar playbook of secrecy and silence. To date, neither Ms. White nor her counsel have been provided any initial incident reports despite having officially requested them on December 14, 2018. Instead, Public Record Act requests made by Ms. White’s attorneys and, separately, the Louisiana ACLU have been ignored. Ms. White will permanently suffer debilitating injuries caused by Officer Curry, yet she and the community are left with questions that responsible parties refuse to answer: “How does this happen?” This question is particularly troubling as Ms. White’s case is not the only one concerning the Winnfield Police Department’s inappropriate use of a taser. It is time for the playbook of secrecy and silence to change. If the Winnfield Police and their investigative bodies will not change, then we will ask the courts to force change. We have filed a lawsuit against the Winnfield Police Department, the City of Winnfield, and the Winnfield Fire and Police Board demanding answers, transparency, and accountability.

We will have a press conference on January 8, 2019 outside of the Western District of Louisiana’s Federal Courthouse in Alexandria to address the Tanisha White case.

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