



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Marion Humphrey, Jr.
ag@nblsa.org
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WASHINGTON, D.C. - We are upset. We have a reason.

Our Black communities have experienced continuous terrorism and violence at the hands of police and other organized interests to subjugate and destroy us for decades. Today marks the 99th anniversary of the [Tulsa Race Massacre](#) of 1921, where 300 Black men, women, and children were killed, 35 blocks of businesses were destroyed, and 10,000 Black people were left homeless--at the hands of a mob aided and abetted by police. Unfortunately, the relationships between police organizations and Black residents today appear largely unchanged.

These recent events did not happen in a silo. This outrage extends even beyond the five Black lives (**Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Sean Reed, Tony McDade**) most recently taken from us and the many more whose names the news has overlooked. Police organizations shift in and out of predominantly Black communities often building few positive relationships with community members and perpetuating fear among residents of all ages.

NBLSA supports the creation of institutions that uplift and strengthen Black communities and condemns those seeking their destruction. Those institutions who seek and perpetuate the terrorism and subjugation of our people will not go unchallenged. Our voices will be heard.

Police organizations and prisons have been used as weapons against our communities. Black people are more likely to encounter arrest and receive longer sentences than their white counterparts for the similar offenses. The gross inequities of policing and the criminal legal system are boundless, but our relief has been limited.

When the results of institutional distrust and discord are displayed, we are chastised for our outcries and protests. NBLSA supports our brothers and sisters demanding more of this country than just an arrest or the conviction of a few "bad apples". We uplift the advocates calling for a change--a full reformation of the systems that confine and abuse Black communities, stifling our ability to flourish as a collective.

We mourn the lives of our recently fallen loved ones: **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, and Tony McDade**. We mourn the lives of all of those who have been taken from us by agents of racism, hate and destruction. We fight for our communities that have too long been systematically overlooked, under-resourced, and terrorized. We support those protesting. We support those advocating for change NOW. We as NBLSA strive now for change so that we do not have to see the violence of these times well into our later years.

We demand a world suitable to realize our mission. We will not be silent. We need systems anew.

In NBLSA Service,

Marion Humphrey, Jr.
National Attorney General

Rachel E. Barnes
National Chair