



For Immediate Release
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THE CORRIDOR COUNTS, INC.
TCC

STATEMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE NO INDICTMENT BY THE FERGUSON COUNTY GRAND JURY AND SHOOTING DEATH OF MICHAEL BROWN

The Corridor Counts (TCC) is a collective of community advocates, teachers, laborers, public servants, youth advocates, anti-violence advocates, professionals from all areas of service, and other community members. We have joined together “to evaluate what is most needed by the communities in the Corridor and then take actions which are consistent with what is in the best interest of those communities. Our focus is to lead by bringing about change to meet the identified needs.”

We join our voices together this night in direct response to the finding of “No True Bill” by the Ferguson County Grand Jury in the shooting death of Michael Brown. We also recognize the extreme stress this process has created over the past three (3) months as young and old alike sought some sense of justice as it relates to death of this young African-American man. With the release of the determination by this Grand Jury of 12, we consider the history of our nation and need for all of America to address the actions of violence that have for far too long led to the death of men of color in the communities that have been politically, socially and economically under represented.

With the disappointment and shock for some of this Grand Jury finding, we ask for calm and an orderly response to this decision. Taking the lead from the family of Michael Brown, we appeal to The Corridor and all those who profess to be committed to progress to engage in meaningful response and not violence. Our hearts extend to the Brown Family and ask that in all that we do, we take actions that honor the life of Michael Brown rather than create chaos around his death and this

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action by the Grand Jury. Standing on our commitment that we can achieve justice, we encourage all of our fellow residents to come together and engage in peaceful discussion that will lead to long lasting change.

The mobilization of community organizers and leaders to put anger aside and become anchors by whom our young people and neighborhoods can be led is never more evident. From Brooklyn to Staten Island and from Ferguson to Sanford we are clear that what we have seen is not singular event. TCC realizes the need to be agents of change and make justice more than just a word. Words alone will not serve any us to take away the pain of this lost life, but our united action must seek to come up with answers that will be, in the long run, our show of strength.

TCC calls on our local officials to break their silence understanding that today's Ferguson is tomorrow's Nassau County. Over militarization of Police is not the answer. The need for a Civilian Complaint Review Board and constructive use of tax dollars to educate and care for all of our youth are real answers to begin to address some of the many concerns we face together. We caution those in leadership to understand that violence finds comfort in silence and we cannot remain voiceless in the face of our future. It is all of our responsibility to take to heart the murder of Michael Brown and question the process and everyone of the twelve (12) shots which led to the death of this young Black man at the hands of a police officer. We urge the Justice Department to evaluate this matter with the full force of the Federal Government.

The Corridor encompasses several communities in Nassau County. These communities include Hempstead, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Freeport, Lakeview and New Cassel all of which have been overlooked and disregarded. It is undeniable that there are distinct needs in these communities which have been consistently ignored for too long. The Corridor now contains a significant concentration of African American and Latino residents. It should be noted other contiguous areas of Nassau County such as Elmont, Valley Stream and South Floral Park contain concentrations of African American, Latino, West Indian, Carribean residents and are also heavily populated by South Asians (Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshi) who also feel neglected.

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