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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Arlington, Virginia** – The NAACP Arlington Branch of the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization renews the call for the Department of Justice to conduct an independent investigation after the recent news of yet another tragic death at the Arlington County Detention Center.

Once again, we are devastated and saddened to learn that another loss of life has occurred in custody at the Arlington County Detention Facility. We send our sincere condolences to the family and loved ones. Nine people have lost their lives at the county detention center in the last eight years, and this death marks the second in-custody death within the previous four months. “Unfortunately, we have seen a disregard for basic care at the Arlington County jail and it will continue to lead to deaths at an alarming rate if the Department of Justice does not intervene,” said Michael Hemminger, President of the NAACP Arlington Branch.

Following the seventh death, a **\$10M wrongful death lawsuit** was filed in Arlington County and the NAACP Arlington Branch called for a [Department of Justice Investigation](#) into the detention center. Today, we renew that call to avoid another preventable death. “Arlington County Sheriff’s Office and other county leaders have, again, been unwilling or unable to properly address the root problem. The death rate is accelerating and the conditions inside the jail remain inhumane and unsatisfactory,” said Hemminger.

The NAACP is conducting its own investigation of the deaths in the jail and the organization will ensure that any civil rights violation(s) about conditions while in custody are met with due accountability and justice.

*Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.*

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