



ARLINGTON BRANCH #7047
NAACP

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October 3, 2020

Beth Arthur
Sheriff
Arlington County Sheriff's Office
1425 N. Courthouse Rd, Suite 9100
Arlington, VA 22201

Charles "Andy" Penn
Acting Chief of Police
Arlington County Police Department
1425 N. Courthouse Rd, Suite 9100
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Sheriff Arthur and Acting Chief Penn:

Arlington Branch #7047 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) calls for a full AND independent investigation (to include policy, procedural, and criminal violations) into the death of Mr. Darryl Becton, 46, who died while in your custody on October 1, 2020, after he was found unconscious in his cell at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

Releasing the results of the investigation to the family and public immediately is paramount to promoting transparency and public trust in our community. The results of the autopsy by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determining the cause and manner of death should also be released to the public immediately. Any death in the custody of law enforcement officials should require an independent investigation with full public disclosure.

Any death while in the custody of law enforcement official is overly concerning. It has been reported that in Arlington there has now been at least three deaths in the past few years at the Arlington County Detention Facility. The Arlington Branch NAACP ask that you submit to us by October 19, 2020 the number of deaths at your facility during the past five years, the cause of death, demographics, and who performed the investigation. It is time to find out the reasons why people are dying in your custody. Transparency, accountability, and review are extremely critical. The public deserves to know what policies and procedures have been implemented to prevent any future deaths of inmate.

While we understand Arlington County Police Department will investigate the events surround Mr. Becton's death, we feel strongly that incidents of this nature should be investigated by an independent outside agency such as the state Attorney General's office or Virginia State Police.

Finally, we ask that your offices fully cooperate with our civil rights organization or any state or federal law enforcement agency to review the facts and conclusions of your investigations.

Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciate.



Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.
President, Arlington Branch NAACP and
Regional Vice President, Virginia State Conference NAACP



Mr. Kent D. Carter
Vice President, Arlington Branch NAACP
Criminal Justice Committee, Chair

cc: Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church