

Dear Mayor Lucas, Police Chief Rick Smith, and Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker,

On April 21st 2021, Mayor Quinton Lucas along with Police Chief Rick Smith and the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office requested a meeting with leaders of the Kansas City community in anticipation of the upcoming verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. This invitation follows a year of organizers making clear demands to city/state officials, including Mayor Lucas, and being met with silence and false promises. This call for communal dialogue reminds us of last summer when you knelt with us in the afternoon and set a curfew to teargas us by the evening.

Tuesday, April 20th in a CNN interview, Mayor Lucas stated that he would be meeting with organizers in an effort to deter potential civil unrest in the aftermath of the Chauvin verdict, implying a collaborative relationship that is nonexistent on this issue. As is common with Mayor Lucas, his remarks on this issue were a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Since May 2020, Mayor Lucas has engaged in political posturing at the expense of members in our community who are most impacted by police violence. We will not be party to his political shenanigans. Therefore, we declined the invitation to attend a meeting regarding the Chauvin verdict, which was held Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Our response to Mayor Lucas, Chief Rick Smith, and the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office is simple:

We will not take part in performative politics. We are justice seekers, not order keepers. State-sanctioned violence via the KCPD, a publicly funded institution, is being inflicted upon our community with impunity. The KCPD, under the leadership of Chief Rick Smith remains a racist institution, both systemically and structurally. Smith's leadership fosters a white supremacist culture that breeds violence, engages in archaic over-policing, and blatantly disregards the humanity of Black people. We will not back down and we will not be silent amid such.

Furthermore, the recent reforms announced by KCPD are miniscule, ineffective, inadequate, and don't produce structural change. Moreover, they do nothing to dismantle systemic racism in the execution of policies, practices and procedures.

If order is desired in society, justice is required. Justice is required on behalf of Terrance Bridges, Cameron Lamb, BB Hill, Ryan Stokes, Donnie Sanders, Deja Stallings, and numerous other victims of violence at the hands of KCPD.

We remain resolute in our demands:

- **REMOVE** Police Chief Rick Smith
- **DIVEST** from KCPD by legislating a budget cut, whereas the total KCPD budget shall be reduced to 20% of the general fund as required by state law.
- **INVEST** in a community-established People's Budget by redirecting KCPD funding to resources such as housing, healthcare, sustainable infrastructure and education.
- **DISMANTLE** the Office of Community Complaints
- **ESTABLISH** an independent community-based and governed office of complaints
- **CREATE** foot-chase policy on non-violent allegations which protect and serve
- **MANDATE** the immediate suspension without pay for officers under criminal indictment
- **CREATE** a transformative/strategic reparations plan for the families of those who have been murdered by KCPD
- **WITHHOLD** pensions and don't rehire officers involved in excessive force
- **REQUIRE** officers to be liable for misconduct settlements
- **CAP** overtime accrual + OT pay for military exercises
- **WITHDRAW** participation in police militarization programs
- **ESTABLISH** open records ordinance ensuring that officers' misconduct information and disciplinary histories are not shielded from the public
- **APPOINT** special prosecutor to investigate alleged police misconduct

In solidarity with justice and peace,

*signed (in alphabetical order),*

*Black Rainbow*

*National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)*

*National Black United Front - KC*

*Operation Liberation*

*Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater KC (SCLC-GKC)*

*Urban League of Greater Kansas City*

*Urban Summit of Kansas City*