



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY CHAPTER NAACP

Anthony J. Brown, President | Victor Hart Sr., President Emeritus

TO: Mr. Mark Glass, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Re: Police Involved Shooting in Gifford, Florida (June 11, 2022)

I am contacting your office on behalf of the community and residents of Gifford, Florida. It is a predominantly Black community in which I serve as the Indian River County NAACP President.

We, the citizens, are very aware of the danger and threat of bodily harm that was imposed upon our community by the reckless acts of four Indian River County Sheriff deputies on Jun 11, 2022. The discharging of more than 30 rounds into a highly populated walking community by Indian River County deputies showed reckless disregard for the human lives of those who call Gifford home.

Not only are we concerned with the excessive discharging of firearms by those officers, but we are also concerned with the officers shooting at a fleeing suspect. Given the fact that their reasoning behind the initial traffic stop is questionable, and departmental protocol was not adhered to, we feel their actions warrant an investigation by an external agency.

On June 13, 2022, I met with the Sheriff and attempted to express my and the community's concerns. We met for 45 minutes to an hour. Shortly after, the Sheriff released an edited version of the incident video stating that his officers "did no wrong." This was not only shocking, but extremely disappointing to see because he completely ignored the danger his officers posed to our community and its residents.

We do not concur with the Sheriff's assessment of the shooting, especially in the absence of an independent, objective investigation conducted by an external agency. Given the Sheriff's rush to acquittal of his deputies, we lack faith that this incident will be investigated fully, fairly, and independently of any potential bias on the agency's behalf. The Indian River County NAACP requests to see the body cameras of all four deputies who fired weapons, as well as any other deputies on site during the shooting. We also request all dash cameras and all police radio traffic, 30 minutes prior to the shooting and 30 minutes following the shooting.

The Gifford community has suffered many miscarriages of justice at the hands of the Indian River County Sheriff's office. It is crucial that interested members of the community be able to receive accurate information about the incident. This cannot occur unless we are allowed to review footage captured by an officer's body-worn or dashboard video camera. We are hoping to build a relationship with this new Sheriff, but that will not happen without transparency. We are asking you as the state's governing law enforcement body to ensure our community receives the answers and accountability it deserves. The Sheriff's assertions that his officers did no wrong suggests that the lives of Gifford residents are not worthy of respect and protection.

For the aforementioned reasons, we ask that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement step in and do an independent investigation into the Indian River County Sheriff's Office shooting on June 11, 2022. If further information is needed, I can be reached at (404) 771-3575 or email:

Respectfully,



Anthony . Brown
IRC - President & FSC - NAACP 3rd Vice President
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