



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2018

Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs Calls for Task Force on Improving Police-Community Relations

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs (GACAAA) extends our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the family, friends and entire community of those who loved and supported Antwon Rose, Jr. His death on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is deeply troubling and requires an examination of our moral commitment to justice.

As representatives of the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs, we struggle to find the rationale in this senseless tragedy. Across the nation, it has become more apparent that Black communities continue to suffer from policing rooted in racial bias, discrimination, and occupation. Yesterday, the Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala filed criminal charges of first degree murder against East Pittsburgh police officer Michael Rosfield. This action is an appropriate first step in this process for justice for Antwon Rose, Jr. and towards healing for his family, the Greater Pittsburgh Region and the Commonwealth.

The members of the GACAAA fully support the recommendation presented by State Representatives Austin Davis (HD-35), Ed Gainey (HD-24), and Jake Wheatley (HD-19), to create a bipartisan taskforce to bring together policymakers, law enforcement members, and families directly impacted by police officer involved shootings to develop best practices to help prevent incidents like this occurring again.

Established by [Executive Order 2015-07](#), the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs (GACAAA) serves as the commonwealth's advocate agency for the African American community in Pennsylvania. Our mission is to ensure that state government is accessible and accountable by advising the governor on policies, procedures, legislation, and regulations. GACAAA also works to expand and enhance the civic, social, educational, cultural, and economic status of the African American Community.

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