

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington, DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:
Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

October 17, 2016
For Immediate Release

34,000 Black Churches of The National Black Church Initiative Will Only Accept the Apology from IACP if There is a Comprehensive Plan Moving Forward to Restore Trust, Peace and Justice

Just an apology will not do

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, will only accept the apology from Terrence M. Cunningham, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police who characterized the mistreatment of minorities as a historic pattern of disrespect if actions follow his words. The National Black Church Initiative reached out to the IACP 3 months ago asking for a constructive dialogue to restore civility and trust between the police and the African American community. We never formally heard from them. Not only did we do this with IACP but also with 6 other national law enforcement organizations who as of this date have been silent on the issue of reaching back to us. This is why we will only accept the apology is the apology comes with a sufficient and comprehensive initiative based upon 5 trust-building models as spelled out in our initial letter to these organizations.

We are also prepared to not accept the apology if there is no action behind these empty words. We commend Chief Terrence Cunningham and will reach out to meet him halfway to make this apology the foundation of creating an environment whereby the police can do its job and the citizens can help the police keep the community safe.

We are calling on not only the International Association of Chiefs of Police to engage our faith leaders around the country in a 5 trust-building model that we have laid out but also on all major law enforcement organizations to follow this model.

- 1) The first is that this apology must be made in front of African American congregations by every single chief of police in the country. They must stand in our pulpits in God's house and promise to apply the law fairly and equal to all regardless of race and ethnicity and income.
- 2) They must be willing to work with the community to create citizen, civilian boards to review police actions and these civilian boards must have the power to issue subpoenas
- 3) They must be willing to drop the 'us against them' attitude when it comes to communities and pledge to the entire community that truth and actions must be parallel and ethical
- 4) Their officers, when they see other officers breaking the law, must report it to their superiors
- 5) They must be trained to underscore that deadly force is not the first approach that must be administered when dealing with the citizens of their particular jurisdiction

The community and the police must develop, in every instance, what the National Black Church Initiative calls a safe stop method.

We believe that there must be a global vision of police and citizen behavior so that everybody can recognize their responsibility in that relationship. This is why we have created our safe stop technique which is now on trial in Milwaukee.

This is how it works. When an individual is stopped by the police, especially a minority or African American, the individual tells the policeman "I want to go through the safe stop procedures." These ten procedures assure the safety of both the motorist and the police.

- 1) The motorist will yell out of the window "I want to go through the safe stop procedures."
- 2) The police will acknowledge and say, "I am now instituting the safe stop procedure."
- 3) The police immediately turn on, if it is not already on, his or her body camera and the dash camera in the squad car. The officer will make a determination at this point as to whether or not the motorist is compliant to the safe stop methodology.
- 4) The police will ask the motorist if there are any guns, knives, weapons or illegal drugs in the car, the motorist will then reply either negative or affirmative.
- 5) Depending upon what the motorist says, the safe stop procedures will go in the direction where there is no weapon involved, or if there is a weapon involved and this will depend upon the state law on whether citizens have a right to carry. If the individual has a gun and it's an illegal gun, the officer will ask the individual to stay in the car until there is adequate backup to secure the illegal or legal weapon. The motorist will then agree to keep his hands on the steering wheel and stay in his or her exact position until there is additional personnel on the scene.
- 6) The motorist makes his hands visible to the officer acknowledging that he or she will follow all of the officer's demands.

7) The motorist will repeat everything the officer asks him to do like, "Show me your driver's license." The motorist will respond to the policeman, "I am now reaching for my driver's license which is in my glove department/ my pocket and will have to lower my hands."

8) The officer will then dictate what movement the motorist will make and the motorist will then follow the officer's demands.

9) The officer will assure the motorist that he or she is not in trouble that this is either a routine stop or there is something wrong with the motorist's vehicle. This assurance is critically important of lowering any apprehension frustration or tension that is in the air.

10) The officer would proceed with their police training of being polite, being clear and forceful to bring the situation to a nonviolent conclusion.

In conclusion, our focus is on creating a national coalition of individuals who are trained both by civic leaders and clergy who would agree to act as community ambassadors between the police and the citizens to help resolve any issues relating to public disturbance and violence. These individuals -- community ambassadors, will number anywhere between 100-500 depending on the population of the city or town and they will also be capable of being trainers in their particular communities and in their faith communities.

ABOUT NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.