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For Immediate Release

National Black Church Initiative Believes Mayor Vi Lyles's Comments Fall Short of Addressing the Death of Iryna Zarutska and the Fundamental Problem of Mental Illness and the African American Community.

The African American middle-class politicians have abandoned the Black Poor

Washington, D.C. – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino faith communities, constituting 27.7 million members, that believes that Mayor Vi Lyles, who has no power and no money, comments on the tragic of Iryna Zarutska underscores the problem with all black elected officials who serve in a city where there is a sizable black population. They clearly understand the need and priority of the city and the significant need of the black community, and they refuse to recognize the need and spend the real money it takes to deal with the need, like mental health. They are afraid that white taxpayers will think and try to vote them out of office if they really spend the money where it is needed. Oftentimes, whites become the victims of the lack of spending on education, mental illness, or housing for the black community.

Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black church Initiative, said "Mayor Lyles is not ready for the national stage. She handled this completely wrong. She should request state and national assistance. Charlotte has a crisis, like all cities, when you have a large, poor black class.

It is foolish to argue with the Trump White House. Ask them for what you need. It is not a debate with President Trump. He has all the cards.”

Mayor Vi Lyes is in a no-win position. She has no power and no money. Her comments lack humility for the victim, Iryna Zarutska. We all know what is going to happen to Mr. DeCarlos. Brown. The system will just let him die. He will be given a few pills and no treatment.

The African American middle class honestly does not care what happens to the poor black people anymore.

What she should be saying and doing is reaching out to the state and federal governments for help and not playing the endless local political games. She should invite the state and federal government with a \$200 million grant.

ABOUT NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino churches, comprising 27.7 million members, that works 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. The National Black Church Initiative’s methodology utilizes faith and sound health science. We also offer our member congregants and the public helpful and healthy science-based tips on how to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The National Black Church Initiative’s purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose primary mission is to reduce racial disparities in various areas, as cited above. NBCI provides faith-based, innovative, and cutting-edge solutions to complex economic and social challenges. NBCI’s programs are guided by **credible statistical analysis, science-based strategies and techniques, and methods that are proven to be effective.**