

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

The 34,000 Churches Of The National Black Church Initiative Calls The U.S. Customs And Border Protection Officers, Adrian Perallon and Valerie Baird, Accessories To Murder In The Eyes Of The Church

The CBP act like the drug cartels!

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, are morally outraged to witness the behavior of our own government and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers who casually, and without any sense of remorse or humanity, encouraged a 16-year old to drink liquid methamphetamine on video tape and watched him die. We call on members of congress to investigate the U.S. Customs Border Protection into their treatment of our Latino brothers and sisters.

Rev. Anthony Evans President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “What human being who has a beating heart and any resemblance of a soul would have allowed a 16-year old to drink pure liquid methamphetamine and die in front of their eyes? The reactions of both Officer Adrian Perallon and Officer Valerie Baird were inhuman, evil, and in the eyes of the Church they are murderers. The Church does not care that the family received \$1,000,000.00 for the death of their child; that is immaterial to the behavior of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers Baird and Perallon. Both of these individuals in the eyes of the Church may only have one other opportunity to redeem themselves by telling the world the truth. If they continue to lie, the Church believes that God will not give them a chance for salvation.

The human depravity displayed by these two officers is the lowest form of man’s inhumanity to fellow man and cannot be reversed until they tell the truth and feel genuine remorse for the role that they played in the death of this child. The National Black Church Initiative denounces in the strongest of terms the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and these two officers as well as the many officers who target, violate, kill and maim our Latino brothers and sisters as they try to cross into freedom. The Black Church has no respect for the men and women who are serving in the US CBP until these two employees are prosecuted for murder.

This happened under the administration of former President Barack Obama, and we plead with the Trump administration to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the death of Crus Velazquez Acevedo and to order a legal review of the incidents of this case and the cover up that occurred afterwards. The National Black Church Initiative will be sending a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions to do just that in the near future and hope to be joined by major Latino organizations across the country for justice for the death of Cruz Velasquez Acevedo.”

According to the Daily Wire, on November 18, 2013, Acevedo was attempting to smuggle liquid methamphetamine into the U.S. but was stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers who found two bottles of the narcotic on his person. After claiming the liquid narcotic was apple juice, CBP officers told him to drink it to prove his claim.

Continuing with his lie, Acevedo drank the liquid methamphetamine; “four sips.” He began sweating profusely, and screaming “Mi corazón! Mi corazón!” (“My heart! My heart!”). Within minutes, he had a fever of 105 degrees and a heart rate of 220 beats per minute. About two hours later, Acevedo was dead.

The two CBP officers, Adrian Perallon and Valerie Baird, said in testimony they suspected the liquid on Acevedo’s person was not apple juice. Acevedo’s family’s complaint accused the two officers of having “coerced and intimidated” Acevedo into taking “a big sip.”

The Acevedo family's complaint also alleged violations of constitutional rights, including the right to not be subjected to punishment without due process. It further accused government officials of inadequately training CBP officers. Perallon and Baird remain employed by CBP.

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.