



Progeny
c/o Destination Innovation Inc
2333 East 21st Street North
Wichita, KS 67217

10/13/2021

Marc Bennett
Chief Gordon Ramsay
Mayor Brandon Whipple
Glenda Martens
Tom Stolz
Sheriff Jeff Easter
Commissioner Lacey Cruse
Commissioner Pete Meitzner
Commissioner Sarah Lopez
Commissioner David Dennis
Commissioner Jim Howell

Dear Local Officials,

We, a collaborative movement of clergy and organizations, have come together to call attention to the tragic death of 17-year-old Cedric Lofton. Cedric, who leading up to the incident was under the custody of a foster guardian, was the subject of an initial call for help to the Wichita Police Department that took place on Friday, September 24th, 2021 and it led to him being taken to the Juvenile Intake & Assessment Center (JIAC)—an action that ultimately ended in his murder.

Since news of his murder on Monday, September 27th, 2021, there have been repeated requests for full disclosure in this investigation. As a community that has been told repeatedly that we would have transparency in these cases, we have not received adequate support or information and we will not allow his death to be swept under a rug. To date, we have only received fragmented and performative information, that



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absolves certain agencies, while pointing the blame to the mental state that Cedric was in at the time of his arrest without addressing how it turned from a mental health crisis to the untimely death of a child. This is unacceptable, and we as a community are demanding more than press snippets. Our demands are as follows:

- **We demand a full timeline of the events that led to the death of 17-year-old Cedric Loften beginning with the 911 call to the time of the first press conference**
- **We demand that the video from the intake facility be made public**
- **We demand to know if all involved utilized the proper procedure of the use of the WRAP system. Did all involved have proper training to utilize this system?**
- **We demand a transcript of the 911 calls as well as the call made to the crisis center by JIAC staff.**
- **We demand access to the police report & community corrections staff report.**
- **We demand to know if de-escalation policy 915 was utilized.**
- **We demand to know if policy 906 was followed (*Officers are prohibited from impeding normal breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to the throat, neck or chest with the use of their knee or other object and while the individual is handcuffed.*)**



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Most importantly, we demand accountability. In a 2020 a report called: WPD response to the city was issued June 25th, 2020 “promises” were made that included:

- **A new public safety model that emphasizes police responses to emergency situations and the improvement of community policing.**
- **To increase Transparency related to police officer discipline and the use of force.**
- **Two social workers that were embedded in the Wichita Police Department and an Integrated Care Team-Co-Responder for Mental Health Crises. Why wasn't this team called in?**

Our youth are in crisis and the answer is not incarceration and death. There needs to be a collective conversation about the stress and trauma that our youth and community have had to endure and address the systemic issues that are a catalyst to the mental health crisis our youth are currently under.

We have no intention of letting another Black Wichita son's death be in vain. We stand in solidarity demanding justice and accountability for a life cut short while in custody of those who should have protected him. Cedric was a child, regardless of all the efforts to adultify him, he was a child that needed services and was systemically failed and his family, friends and community deserve answers and we demand to have answers within the week, as you are setting the tone for how future cases will be handled and if the demands are not met in a timely fashion, we will **continue to amplify** his name until we receive them.



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We submit our demands in good faith with the understanding that it takes a village to create and sustain healthy communities. We continue to uphold our end and are calling for ALL involved agencies to do the same. If our demands for transparency and accountability are not met, we are prepared to exercise our right to direct action.

Sincerely,

Marquetta Atkins - *Destination Innovation*
Nichole Lee - *Progeny and Destiny Innovation*
Antar Gholar - *ICTRBG*
TaDonne Neal - *C.O.R.E. Community Operations Recovery Empowerment*
Reverend Reuben Eckles - *Church World Service*
Pastor Shana Chivon Stephens
Danielle Johnson - *C.O.R.E. Community Operations Recovery Empowerment*
Tracey C. Mason Sr. - *CHD Boxing Gym*
NaQuela Pack - *Insight to Heal*
Sarah Myose - *URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity*
Bryce Graham - *ICT Launchpad Inc.*
Reverend Bev Baumgartner - *West Heights United Methodist Church*
Siobhan Collier
Breanna Arrington - *C.H.D.H*
Stormy Malone
Alexandria Ware
Melissa Stiehler - *Kansas Interfaith Action Board Member*
Lauren Adelman - *I Am Why*
Jazmine Rogers - *Progeny Youth Leader*
Dante Bristow - *Progeny Youth Leader*
Tyler Williams - *Progeny Community Organizer*
Kristen Powell - *The Coalition for Juvenile Justice Youth Rep*
Ariel Dillion - *Progeny Youth Leader*
Nykia Watkins - *Progeny Youth Leader*
Katlyn Chistenson - *Progeny Youth leader*
Yusef Presley - *YP Project*
Lawanda Dezerser - *Wichita NAACP Youth Council*
Jondalyn Marshall - *Root the Power and Destination Innovation*
Margi Ault-Duell - *Destination Innovation*
A'nya Fisher - *Wichita NAACP Youth Council President*
Antonio Rankin - *Wichita NAACP Youth Council Vice President*