

For immediate release:

Since day one, Tamika Palmer's main request to LMPD and Mayor Fischer has been constant: Tell Us the Truth. For months, we have pursued the truth surrounding what took place leading up to, during and following the murder of Breonna Taylor. And for months, LMPD and Mayor Fischer have covered it up.

For over a month, LMPD unlawfully denied several open records requests. This lack of transparency compelled the filing of a civil lawsuit. The open records requests still remain denied and are pending an appeal with the attorney general's office.

Since the filing of the lawsuit, we have submitted several subpoenas in accordance with Rule 45 of the Kentucky Rules of Civil Procedure. Only because of one of these subpoenas did the world finally get to hear the 911 call vindicating Kenny Walker. This is the only subpoena compliance we have received.

This past Friday marked the deadline for:

1. The Louisville Metro Coroner's office to produce the autopsy and government communications with relation to Breonna's death
2. The LMPD Merit Board to produce the entire personnel files and sign in/sign out sheets for Defendants Brett Hankison, Jonathan Mattingly and Myles Cosgrove
3. The mayor to produce all of his communications with relation to the investigation surrounding Breonna's murder.

Under CR 45, unless a timely objection or motion to quash was filed, the records custodians for the coroner's office, the merit board and the mayor were required to produce certified copies of these documents and communications to our office. Our office would then circulate the copies to all parties. No objections were made. No motion to quash was filed.

BUT...

Under the direction and instruction of our mayor, NONE of these documents were produced and have not been produced. Instead, under the direction of the mayor, the coroner's office and the merit board **produced the information directly to counsel for the city and withheld it from our office and Tamika.** And the mayor's office simply violated the subpoena to himself, exposing the mayor to potential contempt. When the city claimed a misunderstanding yesterday, we demanded immediate compliance and production of documents by the coroner's office and the merit board by the end of the day. Again, presumably under the instruction of the mayor, NOTHING was produced. So, to date, Tamika and the community have been left in the dark other than a subpoenaed 911 call and a selection of portions of statements hand-picked by the mayor and Commonwealth's attorney which were presented in an effort to somehow justify the frivolous charges made against Kenny Walker. Requests for the rest of that file also remain denied.

These "above the law" actions have gone on for far too long in this administration. Contrary to the mayor's office's beliefs, the city is not exempt from the rules governing our justice system. We intend

to seek all sanctions available for these blatant and willful violations of CR 45. Meanwhile, we present this information so that the public is able to see the lengths that the city will go to in order to withhold the truth and keep Tamika Palmer from learning the facts surrounding her daughter's murder.

Actions speak louder than words. Of all the cities dealing with the tragedies of officer-involved shootings and violence inflicted upon black lives, Louisville's administration has been the least transparent, the slowest and the most frustrating. This administration simply believes it is above the law.

In Brunswick, charges are filed and criminal accountability is in motion for public corruption. In Minnesota, charges are filed, officers are terminated and substantial police reform is already in motion. In Atlanta, the officer is fired, a two week deadline has been imposed for a complete evaluation of the department and charges against the officer appear to be imminent. In all these cases, autopsies were promptly released. Video footage was promptly released. Independent investigations were instituted. Do not be misled: our administration in Louisville blatantly ignored our requests for an independent investigation and only succumbed after national outrage and urging by our governor. In New York, the corrupt plain clothes units have been disbanded entirely. Here, our department continues to investigate itself, claims no video (while dodging the question of the existence video for any of the other 120 officers dispatched to the scene) and continues to allow plain clothes officers to execute warrants and conduct business as usual. And now the administration is literally advising subpoenaed parties to give the administration the documents and communications and to withhold them from the party who actually subpoenaed them. The city continues to employ the officers, including one who fled the scene of the shooting after firing more than 20 rounds blindly into Breonna's home, committed sexual assault in a uniform for years and fractured his own colleague's spine after hitting him while driving the wrong way without emergency equipment and sending him 20 feet down the road. And to make matters even worse, the city is now paying for this officer to be protected 24/7 by two additional patrol officers.

Please continue to take a stand against this playbook of the mayor and his administration. We are grateful for the city council and its diligence in passing Breonna's Law. We urge the council to monitor these ongoing deprivations of the truth and justice and to take whatever actions necessary to stop these obstructions of justice. We urge the public to demand an administration which really will be transparent. We urge the public to encourage officers to take a stand against this injustice and to hold bad officers accountable. This silence has gone on for far too long. To LMPD: we want to fix these problems, but it's a two-way street. Show you will speak out against corruption and racism and hold your officers accountable. You know what happened. You were there or you've otherwise been told. Your silence is complicity. Your honesty and decision to speak out against these actions and against racism will help rebuild this city and unite us all. Please take these critical first steps and trust our community to respond favorably.

Tamika deserves the truth. The city deserves the truth.

Sincerely,

The Legal Team of Breonna's Family