



January 31, 2023

## **Statement from the CCD Board of Directors on the Murder of Tyre Nichols**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD), we express our sorrow, anguish, and outrage over the brutal murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of officers in the Memphis Police Department. Tyre Nichols was a Black man with a disability whose encounter with police began with a traffic stop. People with disabilities, especially Black people, are at higher risk of arrest or harm from police. We join our partners in the disability and civil rights communities who are calling for justice and systemic change.

CCD is a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR). We also want to make sure CCD members saw the statement from Maya Wiley, president and CEO of LCCHR, and the resources provided below. Please forward any resources or statements from your organizations.

### January 27, 2023 Statement from Maya Wiley, LCCHR President and CEO

Colleagues,

On Saturday, January 7, Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, was stopped by law enforcement for reckless driving. After running on foot from officers after the stop, he was beaten by officers for 3 minutes, was hospitalized in critical condition as a result, and died three days later. Many of you have already amplified the horrific and brutal nature of Mr. Nichols' murder, the danger of traffic stops, and the targeting of Black people by the police.

The video of the incident is scheduled to be released to the public at 7p ET today with many concerns across the country of uprisings. (Warning: the video is expected to be extremely graphic, as noted in this article: ['You're going to see acts that defy humanity,' police chief says, as officials urge calm when Tyre Nichols arrest videos are released publicly tonight.](#))

I want to be unequivocally clear; we expect and support peaceful demonstrations. In all actions, we ask those who will come together in community and in pain, to please hold the people of Memphis and the family of Tyre Nichols, front and center.

Public safety requires that elected leaders and Police Commissioners listen to, and take their lead from, recognized and respected community leaders, and

acknowledge that they are in the best position to ensure peace. We ask for all police departments to avoid unnecessary confrontation and allow for communities to exercise their constitutional right to hold those in power accountable.

The larger reality is that we must accept that traffic stops have been a dangerous situation for Black men, before and since, the murder of George Floyd.

Study after study has shown that Black people are over policed when it comes to traffic stops. Stanford researchers gathered [data](#) on one hundred million traffic stops between 2011 and 2017 and found that Black and Latino drivers are much more likely to be stopped and searched for less reason and even though more illegal items are found on white drivers who are stopped and searched.

These conclusions get repeated in many studies. A North Carolina [study](#) of fourteen years of police stops showed that Black drivers are 63 percent more likely to be stopped and 115 percent more likely to be searched than white drivers, even though they drive less. A California [study](#) of four million traffic stops found Black people much more likely to be searched (20 percent) than white people (8 percent), even though slightly more contraband is found on white people during stops.

We will continue to listen to the family of Tyre Nichols and follow their, and local advocates, requests and lead. Below we are sharing some resources for your use and will continue to do so in coming days, including federal asks that you can join in to avoid another violent death at the hands of police.

In solidarity,

Maya

Below are some actions that The Leadership Conference and coalition members have already taken as well as calls for action from people on the ground:

- [Here](#) and [here](#) are tweets you can amplify from The Leadership Conference.
- LDF has issued a statement, which can be found [here](#).
- National Action Network issued a [statement](#).
- Tyre Nichols' family [has requested](#) that all protests be peaceful.
- Here is a [letter](#) from The Leadership Conference that lays out specific guidelines for city responses to protests.
- The attorney for Tyre Nichols' family released a [letter](#) calling for action.
- Decarcerate Memphis has circulated a call to action to support demands by emailing and calling:
  - Demands of the Family
    - Release the body cam footage
    - Charge the officers
    - Name all officers and public personnel that were on the scene
    - Release the offices files

- Community Demands
  - Pass the data transparency ordinance
  - End the use of pretextual traffic stops
  - End the use of unmarked cars and plainclothes officers
  - End the use of SCORPION, OCU, & MGU – end the use of task forces
  - Remove police from traffic enforcement entirely
- Action Toolkit Link: [bit.ly/JUSTICE4TYRE](https://bit.ly/JUSTICE4TYRE)