



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Statement of the DC Police Reform Commission Regarding the Death of Deon Kay

WASHINGTON, DC -- On September 2, 2020, a Metropolitan Police Department officer shot and killed Deon Kay, a Black young person in Southeast D.C. who had only recently celebrated his 18th birthday. We grieve the loss of his young life and sincerely extend our condolences to Deon's mother, family, and the community that loved him. As the facts are gathered and an investigation is underway, we call for that process to be transparent and fair at every stage, so there can be true accountability for any wrongdoing.

Whatever the precise facts, this is a tragedy and underscores the importance and timeliness of the work of the DC Police Reform Commission. As a Commission, we will seek to develop solutions that will reduce or eliminate gun violence in the District. This includes shootings by police officers. No family should have to experience the trauma and grief of a life ended by violence. Deon's death increases our resolve to get to the root causes that allow for tragedies like this and others to occur and reinforces our commitment to ensuring effective police oversight and accountability in the District.

As a Commission, we also call for an independent investigation of Deon Kay's death and a commitment by MPD and the City to preserve all relevant evidence to allow for this independent investigation. We believe that an independent investigation will increase community confidence that this shooting is being addressed in as transparent and objective a manner as possible.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on police use and investigation of force, including deadly force, at a future date. We are also creating a portal that members of the public can use to provide information to the Commission. Until that portal is created, you can send information to the Commission through this email address: cow@dccouncil.us.

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