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Over 160 Organizations Call for Justice for Antwon Rose II in Open Letter

Pittsburgh, PA - Over 160 organizations and businesses have signed an open letter demanding justice for Antwon Rose II. This diverse group of political, faith-based, arts and culture organizations and privately owned businesses stands as a show of solidarity and represents a unified commitment to making Allegheny County a place that’s safe and just for all of its residents regardless of race or ethnicity.

“We wanted to do something to show our collective unity, while also respecting the wishes of Antwon’s family about not protesting during the trial”, said Jasiri X, co-founder of 1Hood Media. “The fact that we were able to get such a varied cross-section of organizations and businesses in such a short period of time, shows how many people want justice for Antwon and the conviction of Michael Rosfeld for his murder.”

"The law clearly states that an officer is only to use deadly force to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or other persons,” said Brandi Fisher of Alliance for Police Accountability. "But it goes further with contingencies. If it allows what we all witnessed to be considered justified, then lawmakers are complicit in murder. What we all saw should never be justified. There is a difference between what is law, and what is just...and they are not one and the same."

In a video shared globally, the world witnessed East Pittsburgh Officer Michael Rosfeld shoot the unarmed teen 3 times, in the back of his body, as he was running away, unarmed, from the officer. The criminal homicide trial against Officer Rosfeld begins on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

The full text of the letter and list of signers is below:
AN OPEN LETTER: JUSTICE FOR ANTWON ROSE II

We are all witnesses.

On June 19, 2018, we watched the video of 17-year-old Antwon Rose II running away, unarmed, with his hands held high. We watched as he was fatally shot in the back by Police Officer Michael Rosfeld.

Antwon Rose II was no threat to Michael Rosfeld.

We believe the family and loved ones of Antwon Rose II deserve justice.

We believe that in a democratic society, democracy fails when any citizen is denied a pathway to justice.

We believe that holding police accountable is essential for creating a meaningful relationship between the community and the police.

We believe that in order for justice to prevail, Michael Rosfeld must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for the murder of Antwon Rose II.

The focus at this time should be on assuring that the criminal justice system works in the interest of fairness and justice—not what a community in pain might or might not do. With a conviction, we can finally begin the process of healing and reconciliation.

We've all heard the slogan that Pittsburgh is "America’s Most Liveable City." However, without justice, without accountability, without racial equality, the question remains, “For WHOM?” Only a two-tier system of justice that offers police preferential treatment would accept the notion that Michael Rosfeld is innocent of wrongdoing. Such a conclusion would send a very clear message to our community and the world that Black Lives Do NOT Matter.

The outcome of this trial can either deepen the division or show that we are truly "Stronger Together".

The whole world is watching.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens of Allegheny County
Any updates to this list can be found at 1Hood.org.