MEDIA RELEASE

Statement on the Police Officer-Involved Death of Daniel Hambrick

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METRO COURTHOUSE

NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope) has been involved in Criminal Justice issues for 4 years. After much discussion in small groups and at our board meeting on August 14, 2018, NOAH member groups approved the following statement with 26 in favor, 4 against, and 2 abstentions.

NOAH RESOLUTION REGARDING OFFICER-INVOLVED HOMICIDE OF DANIEL HAMBRICK

By vote of the governing board of Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH), a coalition of 61 congregations, labor unions, and other community organizations, NOAH hereby issues the following formal resolution in connection with the July 26, 2018 Metro Nashville Police Department officer-involved homicide of Mr. Daniel Hambrick.

NOAH is saddened and deeply concerned by the death of Daniel Hambrick, another young black man shot to death by a Metropolitan Police officer. Based on the surveillance video released by District Attorney Glenn Funk, it appears that Officer Andrew Delke shot Mr. Hambrick in the back while Mr. Hambrick was running away. It does not appear that Mr. Hambrick was twisting, turning around, or doing anything else that would have given Officer Delke reason to fear that Mr. Hambrick was about to start shooting at him. NOAH urges the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to conduct a timely and thorough investigation in order to gather all the facts in connection with this incident. While the investigation is pending, NOAH expects the Metropolitan Police Department will not tweet or publicize information which is intended to sway public opinion about the incident or Mr. Hambrick. In addition, in light of the evidence that has been released NOAH does not believe that it is appropriate for Metro to continue paying Officer Delke’s salary while this investigation is conducted.

NOAH is very concerned about the failure of Metro Government and the Metro Nashville Police Department to equip the police force with body and dash cameras prior to this incident. At a NOAH Public Meeting in October 2016, former-Mayor Megan Barry committed to body cameras for police officers. The 2017 Metro Budget included funds for the purchase of this equipment. However, due to continuing delays in the selection, purchase and distribution of this equipment, today almost no MNPD officers are equipped with cameras. Had cameras been deployed to Officer Delke, there would have been more evidence available to the TBI and the public regarding the death of Mr. Hambrick.

In addition, NOAH remains concerned that MNPD’s current internal disciplinary system, in which MNPD polices itself, is inadequate to address citizen claims of officer misconduct. NOAH believes that creation of a robust, citizen-led Community Oversight Board is necessary in order to ensure fair, unbiased investigations of alleged police misconduct.

Finally, NOAH finds that MNPD Chief Steve Anderson has fundamentally failed the community in the execution of his duties in the following ways:
1. In October 2016, *Gideon’s Army* released the *Driving While Black* report showing that under Chief Anderson’s leadership, black drivers were being subjected to roadside searches at more than three times the rate of white drivers even though a lower proportion of these searches resulted in the discovery of incriminating evidence.

2. Chief Anderson’s response to the *Driving While Black* report was to claim that the authors were “moral disingenuous,” and to justify MNPD’s practices based on the tiny percentage of African-Americans who commit serious crimes.

3. In February 2017, an MNPD officer shot and killed Mr. Jocques Clemmons, an African-American man, while Mr. Clemmons was attempting to flee the officer.

4. In March 2017, WPLN reported that for years MNPD had been distributing *The Tactical Edge*, a decades-old book with explicitly racist claims that people of color are more violent than white people, to all new police recruits.

5. In May 2017, in reviewing the Jocques Clemmons investigation, District Attorney Glenn Funk reported that MNPD’s internal investigation of the incident appeared biased in favor of the officer. Chief Anderson’s response to this announcement was to personally criticize the Deputy District Attorney who delivered this critique.

6. In June 2017, the Davidson County Grand Jury recommended that civilians be involved in investigating officer-involved shootings, and the Department of Justice recommended that MNPD establish work groups to consider development of a citizen’s police advisory board. However, Chief Anderson ignored these recommendations and opposed the creation of a Community Oversight Board.

7. Chief Anderson has obstructed the timely equipping of MNPD’s officers with body and dash cameras, notwithstanding the Mayor’s commitment to the program, the Council’s approval of the necessary funds, and the Council’s March 2017 resolution calling for deployment of cameras as quickly as possible;

8. Chief Anderson is reported to have obstructed the implementation of the “Steering Clear” program, a program devised by the District Attorney, Sheriff, and Public Defender’s Offices to divert low-level offenders charged only with driving without a license.

9. Police officers themselves have urged Chief Anderson to end policies of excessive traffic stops, but Anderson has deflected this and other input from MNPD officers regarding policy or policing strategy changes. Officers also characterize Anderson as a “dictator.”

10. In the wake of the homicide of Mr. Hambrick, Chief Anderson has lost the public trust. Many Nashville leaders now call for his termination, including the NAACP, the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship, individual clergy, Acting Vice-Mayor Sheri Weiner, and other Metro Council Members.

In light of the foregoing, NOAH hereby demands that Mayor Briley take the following steps as soon as possible:

1) Expedite the deployment of body and dash cameras on all MNPD officers and patrol cars;
2) Officially endorse the Community Oversight Board charter petition filed by the Community Oversight Now coalition on August 1, 2018;
3) Formally include interested community organizations in a review of MNPD training, policy, and strategy;
4) Order MNPD to suspend Officer Andrew Delke without pay pending the outcome of the Daniel Hambrick investigation;
5) Immediately terminate Chief Steve Anderson from the Metro Nashville Police Department, and formally include interested community organizations in the selection of a replacement chief.

In addition, we demand that District Attorney Glenn Funk commit to presenting this matter to the Davidson County Grand Jury so that the grand jury can determine whether to indict Officer Delke for the murder of Daniel Hambrick.