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Daniel D. Chu Esq.,
Chairman
NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board
40 Rector Street, 2nd Floor
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Joan Thompson
Executive Director
NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board
40 Rector Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Chairman Chu and Director Thompson:

As New York City's only civilian review entity of the New York Police Department (NYPD), I urge the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to investigate the circumstances of the shooting and death of my constituent, Kimani Gray. I particularly urge you to focus upon the police policies that gave rise to the context of the shooting (i.e., "Stop-and-Frisk"), and the level and appropriateness of the use of force by the officers who shot and killed Kimani Gray.

I represent the East Flatbush community that recently suffered a terrible tragedy: the loss of Kimani Gray, and the days of violence that ensued in that shooting's aftermath. It is my belief that in addition to the anger resulting from the death of a child whom the system failed, which is horrific and tragic, those days of protests and unnecessary violence also expressed the frustration of a community whose relationship with NYPD has eroded as a result of the abusive implementation of "Stop-and-Frisk."

I do not believe Kimani's death is an isolated incident. It must be viewed within the context of NYPD's abuse of its "Stop-and-Frisk" policy in East Flatbush and similar neighborhoods. The abuse of Stop-and-Frisk has had a terrible psychological impact upon the targets of this practice – young African American and Hispanic men – and upon the NYPD. Being a young African American or Hispanic male in New York City is not a crime, and those young men should not be treated as criminals. They are entitled to the same civil rights and constitutional protections against unreasonable search as the majority of New York City. Arguably however, by labeling

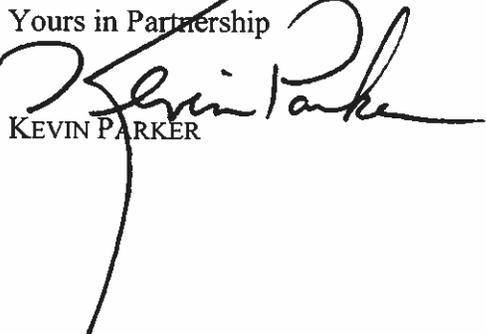
most such youth as “presumptive criminals,” this discriminatory practice has eroded the objective judgment of the police who carry it out sufficiently that they may overreact and use an excessive level of force that but for “Stop-and-Frisk”, may never have been used.

Based on a number of press accounts, Kimani Gray’s untimely death occurred under suspicious circumstances. The police fired eleven rounds and according to the autopsy report, Kimani was struck by seven bullets, three of which struck his back. In addition, according to these reports witnesses did not see Kimani raise a gun at the police officers. In light of these considerations, and in light of the possibility that the abuse of “Stop-and-Frisk” may have made the use of excessive levels of force against young African American and Hispanic men less unthinkable, I ask you to conduct an investigation of this incident – the shooting death of Kimani Gray – as an independent and objective third-party.

Therefore, once again, I strongly urge the CCRB to investigate the shooting death of Kimani Gray.

Thank you for your attention to this crisis in my community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if may be of assistance.

Yours in Partnership


KEVIN PARKER