

For Immediate Release: 7/17/2020

Winston-Salem Demonstrators Regarding **Occupy the Block, DAY THREE #OccupyWSNC**

On day two of the occupation, demonstrators gathered again at 10am in Bailey Park, just before a downpour of rain. Demonstrators continued to gather throughout the day and make more signs. Sara Hines spoke to demonstrators and the community and read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speeches aloud. Some demonstrators called the DA's office and the Sheriff's office and read out the list of demands from our press release. There was a march around the Forsyth County Jail, which ended with the demands being read aloud in front of the Sheriff's Department. The occupation continued until 10pm, and will resume tomorrow, July 17, at 10am.

By the end of Day 2 of Occupy the Block the Winston-Salem Journal ran an article titled "Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough denies accusations of cover-up in John Neville's death." In this article, Kimbrough is quoted saying "There's no blood on our hands and we're not trying to hide anything." And, "If I was trying to cover up something, I would have done the investigation in-house." Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough cites that his reasoning for not announcing the murder of John Neville prior to June 26th was because of the family's wishes. We, at Triad Abolition Project and the Unity Coalition, respectfully seek transparency and accountability for the death of John Neville, a murder that has been meticulously covered up by killer enforcement officers, policies that protect law enforcement, and covert law and law enforcement authorities. We demand this clarity not just for the murder of John Neville, but for all who have and may still die at the hands of our law enforcement officers. During day two of the occupation, two reporters approached occupation organizers to supply the information shared by Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough and to solicit a response.

In response to Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough, we wish to confirm that we have been demonstrating at the Public Safety Building and around Downtown Winston-Salem each day since July 8, the day of the Press Conference hosted by DA Jim O'Neill. 20 of us have been arrested by WSPD. And we will continue to occupy until our demands are met. We demand full transparency in the process towards justice for John Neville, because we demand the same for all who have and who may die at the hands of law enforcement. We demand that the Forsyth County District Attorney's office and Forsyth County Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough's department answer the public:

Why are you covering up a murder?

We demand answers to all of the following questions: Why has Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough not publicly addressed any changes to policy that were made after Neville's death? Was Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough at any time on the scene during the hog tying of Neville? Why has the hog tie remained an acceptable restraint in Forsyth County when it has been banned in the majority of police precincts across the country years ago? Have there been any changes in the medical provider since Neville's death? How many other deaths have occurred at the detention center since the death of Neville? Have there been changes to the handcuff policies of sick inmates? When was the last time the FCSO conducted an overall use of force training and handcuffing training for its deputies and detention officers? Were the detention officers that handcuffed Neville certified to handcuff him? Have there been any policy changes for how to handle handcuffs when the key breaks, for when bolt cutters are necessary?

Why was Guilford County never notified of John Neville's death? What would have happened had Guilford County ADA Spiker known that John Neville was resuscitated after losing his pulse

in FCDC custody when she was asked to release his unsecured bond? Would these staff members have still been charged had SB 168 not been vetoed by Governor Cooper? Why were these staff members allowed to continue working with our incarcerated siblings for seven months after their involvement in a murder? Would the public have been notified of this murder had SB 168 not been vetoed by Governor Cooper? Was the passing of SB 168 intended to shield the murder that took place in the FCDC from the public? What involvement did Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough have in the proposal of SB 168 the night before news reports on the death of John Neville were to become publicly available?

Furthermore, according to the Grace, Tisdale, & Clifton website, "Mike and the firm Grace, Tisdale & Clifton are one of the two local firms who represent local law enforcement through the Police Benevolent Association." Michael Grace, the lawyer for the John Neville estate, has been representing the Sheriff's Department since Sheriff Shatzmen's tenure, and presented Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough to the court and to the public at his swearing in ceremony. What rules of professional conduct under the NC State Bar Rule 1.7 Conflict of Interest are implicated by Michael Grace representing both the estate and the Sheriff's Office?

Why are you, Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough and DA Jim O'Neill, covering up a murder?

For further information, please see @TriadAbolitionProject and @_theunitycoalition_ on Instagram. All press release documents can be found at www.triadabolitionproject.org.

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