

From: "Homeless Union" <homelessuniongso@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue, 18 Sep 2018 00:57:56 +0000
To: "Scott, Wayne" <Wayne.Scott@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)" <Nancy.Vaughan@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Johnson, Yvonne" <Yvonne.Johnson@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Abuzuaite, Marikay" <Marikay.Abuzuaite@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Kennedy, Michelle" <Michelle.Kennedy@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Hightower, Sharon" <Sharon.Hightower@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Wells, Goldie" <Goldie.Wells@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Outling, Justin" <Justin.Outling@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Hoffmann, Nancy" <Nancy.Hoffmann@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Thurm, Tammi" <Tammi.Thurm@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Carruthers, Tom" <Thomas.Carruthers@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Sizemore, Polly" <Polly.Sizemore@greensboro-nc.gov>; "Parrish, David" <David.Parrish@greensboro-nc.gov>
Subject: Marcus Deon Smith
Attachments: Marcus Deon Smith Letter.pdf

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Dear Police Chief, Mayor Vaughan, Mr. City Manager and Members of Council,

Please see the Attached Letter Regarding the death of Mr. Marcus Deon Smith.
We appreciate your prompt response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Mitch Fryer

For the Homeless Union of Greensboro
homelessuniongso@gmail.com
336-501-6861



GSO-11519

9/17/18

Dear Mr. City Manager,
Police Chief,
Mayor and Members of Council,

On Saturday September 8th, Greensboro lost a beloved member of the community, Marcus Deon Smith. We are concerned about his death and the lack of information from the Greensboro Police Department regarding the circumstances of his passing. We urge you to promptly release all relevant information regarding this incident so that the community that knew and loved Marcus may properly process and mourn his passing.

This death hits hard in one community in Greensboro in particular - the homeless community. Marcus was a stalwart figure at the Interactive Resource Center, a place designed to care for and connect people experiencing homelessness to their needs and offer services. Often seen cutting people's hair at the IRC, speaking and motivating people to get their life on track as he worked to do so himself, and giving out his own few possessions to help others in need. Marcus had an amazing ability to both receive help and pour life into others.

News of his death has prompted questions from our community as well as in the broader community in Greensboro. All people seek closure at the loss of loved ones, and we seek clarity as to how his death unfolded so that we can fully honor his character, his memory, and come to understand how such a beautiful life can come to such an abrupt end.

The press release offered by the Greensboro Police Department is quite brief and it lacks context and detail. It is difficult to understand how this event progressed so quickly from Marcus's initial contact with police to his death. Statements about him being "combative" and then "collapsing" leave too much room for interpretation and beg for further explanation. Because of the way this information was presented, there is a lot of speculation among his friends and others who are interested in finding out what actually happened. People who knew Marcus intimately are adamant that he was not suicidal and are understandably confused by his untimely death.

We believe it is within the interest of safety and community trust to release all the pertinent facts concerning this situation. We ask that whatever body camera footage is available be released to the public so that we can understand what happened, along with any pertinent information regarding his condition at the time of arrest, transport and at the time he arrived at the hospital.

Chief Wayne Scott, we need answers. Waiting for the SBI investigation to come to completion, a process that could take several months - if not years - is unacceptable. No family should bear the death of their child without being given a full understanding of the circumstances. No community should mourn a valued and loved member of that community while questions loom as to how and why that person died.

We look forward to your prompt response regarding this matter

Sincerely,

Mitch Fryer
For the Homeless Union of Greensboro
homelessuniongso@gmail.com
336-501-6861

GSO-11520