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Call to Accountability by Survivors of Victims Murdered by CPD

Families affected by police brutality announce their response to the proposed community policing plan from the Cleveland Division of Police, and promote their recommendations for firm accountability instead.

Brenda Bickerstaff's brother, Craig, was killed by police 16 years ago. Alicia Kirkman's son, Angelo, was killed 11 years ago. Samaria Rice's son, Tamir, was killed 4 years ago. Together these families want to see a much more serious effort at community policing than is described in the Division's document known as CPOP (community and problem-oriented policing).

"The plan offered by the Division of Police is not specific enough," says Bickerstaff. "Our group felt it left out important details. It omitted any kind of truth and reconciliation process."

The US Department of Justice found a pattern and practice of unconstitutional policing, and widespread excessive use of force. The current draft CPOP plan was released to the public for a period of comments as part of the DOJ-ordered consent decree process. The draft has not been finalized, but will be revised by the City in conjunction with the DOJ-appointed monitoring team.

Cleveland families affected by police violence worked together on detailed recommendations. Together they submitted these recommendations as part of the community's input under the consent decree. The families' document includes accountability lacking in the CPOP version drafted so far by the Cleveland Division of Police.

The families will hold a rally to widely release their recommendations on Tuesday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m. on the steps outside the Justice Center entrance off of Lakeside, at 1 West Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

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