

#  **STATEMENT**

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**Arlington NAACP Response to Denied Indictments**

**In the Killing of Christian Taylor**

Approximately 1,100 people are killed in police shootings each year in this country. In 2015, a mere 18 officers were charged and only three convicted. Arlington, Texas is included in these statistics.

On August 7, 2015, former rookie Arlington Police Officer Brad Miller killed unarmed Christian Taylor. Christian Taylor was the second of two African-American men to die at the hands of Arlington Police Department personnel within a five-month period in 2015. Five months prior, Jonathan Paul became the first African-American man killed in 2015 by APD while in-custody and unarmed in the Arlington jail.

The use of deadly force in the death of Christian Taylor was not justified. The Grand Jury’s decision to clear the officer of criminal wrongdoing is perplexing. **We feel strongly this case should be prosecuted.**

“It is important to remember that Miller, who is trained, is the one who intensified the scenario that led to his taking of Christian’s life when he violated a number of departmental policies,” said Alisa Simmons, Arlington TX NAACP president.

“The deadly force deployed by Officer Miller was not the only option available. However, he chose deadly force when his training officer determined that the less lethal option was the appropriate tactic in the use-of-force continuum,” said Michael Golson, Arlington TX NAACP Criminal Justice chairman.

According to Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson, Miller never should have gone in the building without letting his training officer know.

**Take a moment to consider the possible outcomes had Miller not entered the dealership without working through established protocol.** If he had waited for back-up officers and followed the lead of his training officer, he would not have thoughtlessly placed himself in a potentially precarious scenario.

While we know that these cases are historically tough to win, especially when the victims are African-American, it is not acceptable that an officer of the law, sworn to serve and protect, makes the decision to be judge, jury and executioner. **We believe the acts of Brad Miller should be heard before a jury of his peers, in a public forum.**

The Arlington NAACP will continue supporting the Taylor Family and its counsel as we weigh all options for seeking justice.

