

November 7, 2016

**For Immediate Release**

The family of Naeschylus Carter has resolved their dispute with Aurora over his tragic death on March 6, 2015. Those who knew Mr. Carter will forever miss his kindheartedness, generosity, and unconditional love for his children. Mr. Carter is survived by his spouse Jestina Carter, his eight children, and a large extended family.

Naeschylus Carter was born on July 23, 1977 in California to Joseph Vinzant and Paulette Zinnerman. He moved to Aurora at the age of 17. Mr. Carter was a mature and analytical youth who was interested in social and political sciences. He loved music and could play the piano, drums, and guitar. Later in life he had a home studio where he would make music with friends. Mr. Carter taught himself Spanish, and was conversant in Spanish at the time of his death.

In his early twenties, Mr. Carter worked as a steel worker and mechanic, and briefly ran an auto detailing company. Mr. Carter was also passionate about cooking. He experimented with different cuisines, followed the careers of international chefs, and dreamed of opening a restaurant. On Sundays he cooked large meals that he shared with friends and acquaintances.



The family of Naeschylus Carter appreciates the sincere condolences and kindness offered by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, members of Aurora's City Council, Aurora Police Department Chief Nick Metz, and Aurora City Attorney Mike Hyman. Chief Metz has met with the family many times since Mr. Carter's death, always listening to and respecting the family's concerns. He has shown a genuine determination to improve the Aurora Police Department while honoring the difficult work performed everyday by his officers.

Aurora has maintained throughout this process that it wanted to make the best of this unimaginable tragedy. The family knows that nothing will make them whole again. Rather than allow this tragedy to divide the community, Aurora has honored the family's wishes by using Naeschylus's death as an occasion for introspection and positive change in its police department.

In this regard, the family of Naeschylus Carter applauds the following policy changes the Aurora Police Department has made as a result of Mr. Carter's death:

- 1) Increased use of body cameras;
- 2) A reaffirmed commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive police department that mirrors the community it serves;
- 3) The creation of a Compliance and Professional Standards Division, which is responsible for the development and revision of Aurora Police Department policies and procedures;
- 4) Greater oversight and responsibility for the Internal Affairs Bureau, which will have additional staff under the control and supervision of higher-ranking command staff;
- 5) Additional responsibility for the Independent Review Board to review use of force incidents and make recommendations on training, policy, and tactics;
- 6) The establishment of a Citizen Advisory Board, which will review specific policy considerations, weigh in on strategic planning, and potentially assist in the ongoing examination of personnel practices;
- 7) The development of a Blue Ribbon Panel comprised of civilian and law enforcement experts to assist the Chief in evaluating police tactics; and
- 8) Efforts to improve communication with the public, including increased use of social media.

The Adams County Probate Court must still approve this settlement agreement. The family appreciates that the probate process will ensure that this settlement is in the very best interests of Mr. Carter's children.

Finally, the family of Naeschylus Carter expresses extreme gratitude for the support they have received throughout this tragedy. They ask that the community continue to strive for social justice and reform through peaceful means. The family of Naeschylus Carter will continue to stand with the families of other fallen victims as we continue to fight against systems that suppress rights and freedoms of communities of color.



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