



**National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People  
Temple Branch  
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## **For Immediate Release**

### **NAACP Temple Branch Response to Not Guilty Verdict in the Michael Dean Case**

In the wake of this decision of not guilty by the jury, the NAACP Temple Branch Executive Committee first and foremost sends condolences to the family of Michael Dean. We are deeply sorry for their loss. We also want to offer the Dean family our support in getting through this tragedy.

We want to thank the prosecutors for their diligence in this case and especially in recognizing that there were many questions and problems in how the incident was handled with disregard to the policies and protocols Temple police officers are expected/required to follow in such incidents, especially when they interact with citizens during traffic stops. Those policies are important because they aim to protect police officers and citizens. We also applaud the prosecutors for valuing Temple's African American citizens' lives.

We know and understand that police officers want to go home at the end of their shifts. And we support that. But as the Assistant District Attorney stated in this case, Mr. Dean should have been ticketed for speeding and arrested for DWI, he should have gone on to make bond, and sit out his time -- and then go home. As the prosecutor noted, Mr. Dean should not have ended up in the morgue.

So, we were disappointed with the decision by the jury, considering the evidence put forth by the District Attorney's Office regarding policies violated. Several questions still remain in this case. We look forward to the release of the video to the public.

Obviously, this incident and its outcome have undermined trust in the Temple Police Department by the African American Community because of no accountability. We want to work with the law enforcement community to address these issues going forward.

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*NAACP Mission: The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.*