



1075 Easton Avenue, Suite 11 / #265, Somerset, NJ 08873
www.blackcommunitywatchline.com

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CONTACT:
Antoinette Gaboton-Moss
x212-729-0190

COMMUNITY LEADERS LAUNCH THE BLACK COMMUNITY WATCHLINE

To Address Anti-Black Racial Violence and Abuse in Middlesex County New Jersey

(New Brunswick, NJ, Wednesday, September 9, 2020) — The **Black Community Watchline** (BCW) today launched its free and confidential helpline **888-300-8105**. BCW is an online resource for members of the Black community to report and receive support in addressing anti-Black racial violence and abuse.

"Anti-Black violence and racial abuse are serious societal issues that demand action and collective voices that call out this gross injustice," said Antoinette Gaboton-Moss, BCW Founding Executive Director and Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Highland Park.

Since the public and horrific death of George Floyd three months ago, violence and trauma against Black people has not diminished. Considering such reality, BCW will serve as a resource focused on documenting incidents of anti-Black racism in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and offering support to victims of such incidents.

"The New Brunswick Area Branch NAACP is a proud supporter of the launch of the Black Community Watchline Project," Bruce Morgan, President of the New Brunswick Area Branch NAACP. "This project allows community members to be non-intrusive witnesses to interactions between law enforcement and civilians and, at the same time, record from a legal and safe distance what transpires."

"The Black Community Watchline is a necessary and vital instrument of true justice, which we believe can only happen through transparency, accountability, and repair," said J. Amos Caley, Reformed Church of Highland Park, Associate Pastor and Salvation and Social Justice, Abolition Campaign Director. "Black communities across the country, and especially here in New Jersey, are tired of experiencing the traumas of racism, in all its forms — from explicit bias and brutality to the implicit oppression of disproportionate access to and inequitable treatment from the places of power and privilege."

BCW further identifies and captures data reflecting incidents of racial violence and abuse in Middlesex County and is an advocacy vehicle utilized to bring racial injustices to the forefront of local politicians and government officials in order to help address the issue of racially spurred injustices that are rooted in policies and practices. BCW stands in solidarity with all people of color and marginalized groups who experience violence, abuse, and discrimination.

People are encouraged to call BCW if they experience or witness any of the following:

- Anti-Black violent attack
- Being followed or watched
- Police profiling
- Intimidation or harassment
- Discrimination

The Black Community Watchline provides free and confidential support to Black people experiencing anti-Black racial violence and abuse.

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