

The most recent atrocities that have brought anguish to our communities are this weekend's murder of our Black brother, Trayford Pellerin, by police in Louisiana and the attempted murder of our Black brother, Jacob Blake, by officers in Wisconsin. This killing and far too many others happened before any jury made up their minds. Before any trial (even a trial in a biased, broken, racist, criminal court system). Before anyone was charged with a crime. Even before anyone had read their Miranda rights. We are demanding that all of the officers involved in these shootings are immediately detained and charged, and given the right to a fair trial that Trayford Pellerin was deprived of. Anyone favoring policies of "law and order" should be appalled by these shootings that completely bypass the legal system, and should be by our side calling for justice. "Administrative leave" is not the appropriate repercussion for taking, or attempting to take a life.

Many have proposed that the police have been wearing too many hats. That perhaps some of the daily tasks that fall to police, and the funding that pays for that work, might be better addressed by different groups or authorities. While that discussion continues, we need to be very clear, as a community, as a city, a county, a state, a country, as humans: Of all of the duties that We The People have assigned to police, EXECUTIONER is not one of them!

It is exhausting to have to come back to explain this baseline. Again. BIPOC fear for our families lives daily. We have to repeatedly plead and scream for our right just to MATTER, and even in this we are met with scorn and disgust! We bleed, cry, and wail under the once metaphorical, now very literal knee of a system and its enforcers who deem us unworthy of life, liberty, or happiness. Humanity is not a zero-sum existence. There is not a finite amount of decency to go around. Treating Black men as human beings does not somehow diminish the worth of a White person.

To mourn the countless Black people taken from their families by police officers without trial or deliberation, one of Fort Collins Black residents, Julius Philpot, has been planning a protest and march. Mr. Philpot's event was planned before the shootings of Trayford Pellerin and Jacob Blake, but with the clear understanding that our system hasn't changed and that the struggle is far from over. Friday, August 28 4pm-8:30pm @ CSU Oval | 900 Oval Drive | Fort Collins. More information can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/319053975905541/>. If you go to add your voice to those demanding an end to brutality and the slaughter of Black people, wear a mask. COVID-19 also disproportionately targets BIPOC.

We, the BIPOC Alliance, unwaveringly support the rights of BIPOC community members to voice their pain and frustration and outrage and exasperation and anger and sadness at the current state of policing and the system that enables and encourages the continued oppression of the BIPOC community.

Rest in Power Mr. Pellerin
Keep Fighting Mr. Blake
Black Lives Matter

The BIPOC Alliance