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NAACP DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR KENDRICK JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The family of Kendrick Johnson and members of the NAACP DC Branch will join on Friday, April 8th, 2022 at 12 Noon at United States Capital in Washington DC, to demand justice for the death of Kendrick Johnson. For over 9 years, Kendrick Johnson’s family has been fighting against a failed legal system that has neglected to adequately investigate and assess Kendrick’s true cause of death. Concealed evidence from the Valdosta sheriff’s office and inconsistent autopsy results have led the family to seek the truth and demand justice for Kendrick Johnson.

On January 11, 2013, Kendrick Johnson was found dead inside a rolled-up mat in his high school gym in Valdosta, Georgia. Local officials claimed he died in a “freak accident” after getting stuck in the gym mat. The investigation was carelessly executed by law enforcement. Kendrick’s family later commissioned a second autopsy from an independent source that found the teen had “suffered a blow to the right side of his neck that was consistent with inflicted injury.” On June 20, 2016, The Department of Justice issued a statement saying, “there is insufficient evidence to prove someone committed a prosecutable federal crime.”

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “When we talk about civil rights and racial justice, we’re talking how Black lives are valued in schools, by law enforcement and in the judicial system. A life was lost. We cannot allow Kendrick’s death to be swept under the rug. This is a racial injustice, which demands action. Activism should make people uncomfortable. Until Black Lives are truly valued, we will get in good trouble and fight for change.”

Abiola Agoro, NAACP Political Action Chair, stated, “Black people have too long been denied the right of due process in a country that was built on the backs of our ancestors. Kendrick Johnson’s family deserves clarity and justice to honor the legacy of their son, a young kind black man, whose life was lost too soon. For over a decade this family has fought for nothing but the truth and that truth is overdue”

For more information, please email naacp@naacpdc.org

ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.