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Shanon Williams
Ashley G. Woodson
Karen Wright



C/O Freedom- Unlimited 2201 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-758-7898

May 12, 2017

**Hon. Bill Peduto, Mayor
City of Pittsburgh
512 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Wendell Hissrich, Director
Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety
414 Grant Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Scott Schubert, Chief
Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
1203 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233**

Dear Mayor Peduto, Safety Director Hissrich & Chief Schubert:

At the monthly meeting of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) Planning Council of Thursday, May 11, 2017 much concern was expressed with regard to the incident involving the beating of citizen Nathan Stanley by Pittsburgh police officer Raymond Toomey which took place on the South Side of Pittsburgh on May 7, 2017 . The video seemed to show the officer kicking and kneeling Mr. Kneeland in the head. We are certain that such violence is not taught in the Pittsburgh Police Academy. We are proud of the progress we have collectively made with regard to community-police relations in the past two or three years. We do not want a setback. We do not want *any* backsliding. We ask that all appropriate steps be made to discipline the police officer in question, and to train or re-train

**It's a LIFETIME COMMITMENT...
African Americans VOTE in EACH and EVERY election!!"**
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Email: b-pepinfo@b-pep.net

Website: www.b-pep.net

Pittsburgh police officers with regard to what is appropriate and what is *inappropriate* with regard to proper use of force. We strongly request that these steps be taken immediately.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation and support of our requests. We do not wish to see the type of pictures of confrontations between the community and the police which became far too common in many cities across the nation in recent years, to be seen on our local television screens. As we approach the summer season let us have instead, more coffee clutches and shared positive communities events and activities involving citizens and Pittsburgh police.

Sincerely,

**Tim Stevens, Chairman & CEO
The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
Co-convener, Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence
(CAV)**

**cc: District Attorney, Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.
Vic Walczak, ACLU of Greater Pittsburgh
Esther L. Bush, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Connie Parker, NAACP Pittsburgh Branch
Richard A. Stewart, Jr. NAACP Pittsburgh Branch
Brandi Fisher, Alliance for Police Accountability (APA)
Beth Pittinger, Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB)
B-PEP Planning Council/ CAV Working Group
Area Media**

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