



## Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar

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### Press Advisory - March 3, 2020

**TCC4J responds to report by the working group on deadly police shootings**

**Where: Minnesota State Capitol, Room 120**  
**When: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 12:30pm**

On Wednesday March 4th, recommendations will be presented to the state legislature by a working group created by Attorney General Keith Ellison and Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington to address "police-involved deadly force encounters" -- a sugar-coated euphemism for murders of citizens by police officers.

Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar will join Communities United Against Police Brutality and other groups for a press conference at 12:30 outside room 120 at the State Capitol. Afterwards, there will be community testimony on the recommendations beginning at 12:45.

Despite multiple speakers at the working group panels severely criticizing the BCA for inept and/or biased investigations of police shootings, the working group recommends giving the BCA more control over investigating police violence and a larger budget to do it.

Many other recommendations rely on the POST board to implement reform. Again, the POST board has been demonstrated to protect police interests, not public interests.

Recommendations include changes to police training, but ignore some of the most critical issues with police training, such as warrior training that encourages police to think of civilians as enemy combatants, and the use of programs like "Force Science" that utilize bad science to encourage officers to shoot first and ask questions later.

The working group also proposes a state ombudsman to deal with issues of police abuse and violence. However, Commissioner Harrington, co-chair of the working group, should know that there is a law preventing civilian authorities from disciplining officers, because he co-authored the law. Yet the recommendations conveniently ignore that an ombudsman would be powerless without legislative changes to undo Harrington's previous actions to prevent police accountability.

One recommendation is to establish a family liaison to interface with affected families after police kill. The community doesn't need help from the very perpetrators who inflict trauma upon us in dealing with our trauma. We need justice. We need accountability. We need trials and convictions of the cops who kill the people of Minnesota.

The recommendations of the working group on police shootings are toothless and ignore critical concerns. It is a travesty and insult to the hundreds of people killed by police over the last 10 years that this sham is being presented as a national model for dealing with police violence.

It is a model for justifying the status quo, with minor changes designed not to protect civilians but to avoid offending the police lobby.

This result is not surprising, given that Ellison and Harrington populated this group with mostly police and police lobbyists. Some local family members of victims were added only after vociferous protest by activists.

What the community wants and needs is convictions and discipline for excessive force by police officers. When officers are convicted, fired, or demoted for unnecessary violence, only then we will see a reduction in killing and assault of community members.

TCC4J continues to call for community control of the police. Removing the police establishment and politicians scared of the police lobby from the decision making process of establishing rules, training, hiring, and discipline of officers is required to end the mass slaughter of people of color by racist, violent, inept, and rage-filled cops.

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