

NASW-FL Statement on Anjanette Young, LCSW and Casey Goodson

By Dawn Brown, NASW-FL Legislative Chair, Fabio Naranjo, Chair of the NASW-FL Diversity Committee and Carol Edwards, Co-Chair of the Race and Justice Task Force

NASW-FL vehemently condemns the dehumanization, abuse and trauma that was inflicted on Anjanette Young, LCSW, by the Chicago Police Department. We see you, hear you and stand in solidarity with you, Anjanette Young, LCSW. This horrific incident reminds us that we are still living in a society that dishonors the dignity and worth of Black and Brown folks even in their own home. It reminds us that we need to hold law enforcement to the same accountability that we would hold others for wrongful detainment and violence inflicted on a fellow human being. Those who swear an oath to *serve and protect* have a higher degree of accountability to apply the law and its protections equally without regard to color, creed, economic status, or any other social characteristic.

For many of us, this story about Anjanette truly hit home. There are times we get nervous even if a police car is behind us on the road knowing we have literally done nothing wrong. Regardless of our actions, we fear what could happen if we are pulled over. While reading Anjanette's story, we are reminded that the credentials, titles or letters after our name and hers do not protect us the same way they might protect others. One of the saddest testimonials to the racial injustices in our society is even through justifiable anger, sadness and pain related to this traumatic incident, we are also grateful that she is still alive, because unfortunately we know that could have ended differently.

In Ohio, Casey Goodson lay on the kitchen floor riddled with bullets as the bag of Subway sandwiches he had purchased for his family were strewn around him. Goodson's family watched in horror as this occurred in front of them. Franklin County, Ohio, Sheriff's Deputy Jason Meade was working for the US Marshal's fugitive task force looking for violent offenders, but Goodson was not the person being sought by the task force. Based on their findings, the coroner's office said Goodson's cause of death is multiple gunshot wounds to the torso and it was ruled a homicide. The details about what transpired are still not clear; however, one thing is very clear. Regardless of the individual's actions, there is unquestionably a clear disparity in law enforcement's first response to shoot to kill certain populations.

Consider that in a traffic stop by an Ohio Highway Patrol trooper earlier this month, a Utah driver had a handgun visible on the passenger seat of his vehicle. This driver did not comply with orders from a trooper and a Genoa police K-9 officer to keep his hands visible. Even though the driver had a weapon and was described as combative, the officer's response was to draw his weapon but not shoot, instead he grabbed the driver's arm which the driver pulled free and drove away unharmed and was later arrested in southwest Ohio. This driver is a white male.

While the investigation of Casey Goodson is happening, another black man is shot in the same community by a police officer who violated procedure by not turning on his body camera during the incident, although the camera automatically captures some footage without audio. A weapon was not recovered at the scene and the camera footage that did record, shows a delay in rendering first aid to the individual. We cannot say the names of our brothers and sisters fast

enough before law enforcement response results in another bulletted Black or Brown body on the ground.

Yet, the human resilience we see in the face of these situations is reflected in Casey Goodson mother's statements, as Ms. Payne puts it, "I want everything done in peace," And as she added Ms. Payne said of the protests. "My son was a peaceful man, and I want his legacy to continue in peace. I am calling for justice."

As Social Workers we are called to action to provide advocacy and justice at all levels of practice. We ask you to join us in completing at least one of the actions below in support of Anjanette Young, Casey Goodson and others who are yet unnamed.

Actions to support Anjanette Young, LCSW, Casey Goodson, and others.

1. Please click [HERE](#) to donate to the GoFundMe account set up for Anjanette Young, LCSW.
2. Please click [HERE](#) to donate to the GoFundMe account set up for Casey Goodson.
3. Consider donating to an organization to end police brutality and support communities impacted by recent violence. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more.
4. Educate yourself about the racial injustices by tuning in to 11 racial justice documentaries by clicking [HERE](#)
5. Contact your legislator to advocate for the passage of laws that hold police accountable for their actions.
6. Participate in ongoing efforts in your own community to end racial injustice.
7. For our clinicians holding space for clients, please make sure you have done the work to understand racialized trauma.