

100
BLACK MEN
OF AMERICA, INC.

From the Desk of Chairman
Curley M. Dossman, Jr.

Statement of on the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO

We are saddened by the tragic death of Michael Brown, a young Black man with a promising future, who was shot by a police officer in Ferguson Missouri, on Monday. Our deepest sympathies and condolences are extended to Michael's family, coupled with our hope that the responses by the community be compassionate and responsible.

While the investigation continues, local, regional and national stakeholders must remain vigilant in our quest and advocacy for truth and justice. We all know that far too many Black youth are dying every day in our communities. The excessive behavior and force by the police cannot be tolerated. Collectively, we must do all we can to put a stop to the senseless and rampant violence occurring in our communities.

100 Black Men of America supports the efforts of our leaders in the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis Chapter in their call for the Ferguson community to mobilize in the spirit of reconciliation and healing. We also support their call for an impartial investigation that yields the truth regarding the tragic and senseless death of young Michael Brown. Our leadership team will continue to stay in touch with the St. Louis Chapter to closely follow this situation and lend the appropriate support.

But whatever the outcome of the events in Ferguson, we are reminded of the need for respect of both authority and the rights of the individual. The 100 requests calm during this latest tragedy and we strongly encourage Attorney General Eric Holder's active involvement to ensure the facts of what happened will be revealed and justice will be served.

The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. has mentored African American youth – mostly males – for more than 50 years. We will renew our efforts to bolster and broaden the Work of the 100 in our communities to positively impact the welfare of the youth we mentor. But this issue requires national leaders to come together to create a new dialogue and find new solutions. This collaborative dialogue should result in the alignment of both public policy and public safety to ensure the youth we serve are raised in safe environments allowing them to reach their full potential.