

**The Coalition for  
Justice and Fairness to  
Reform Law Enforcement**

**OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 4, 2014

**CONTACT:** Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

(313) 347-2820

**After Ferguson and New York...  
The City of Detroit Must Take Steps Now**

It is very clear that our nation has a major problem in both the execution of justice and in the perception of justice in the minds of many Americans. This is particularly true in the African American and Latino communities. It has compelled people of goodwill, both black and white, from around this nation to come together to both demonstrate and articulate new calls for justice and fairness in the treatment of minorities and the poor. From the President and the U.S. Attorney General, it is very clear that America has a problem.

We in the City of Detroit know too well from past experiences what can occur when the police and the citizens are at odds, have mistrust, and a non-working relationship in the execution of law enforcement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put into perspective where we are at this precise moment:

*“Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice,  
and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously  
structured dams that block the flow of social progress.”*

The failure of the system in both cities of Ferguson, Missouri and now Staten Island, New York, sends a clear signal to all of us that preparations must be made today in order to preserve peace, justice, and order for tomorrow. Peace can only be established with justice, and justice rests on the foundation of fairness. Therefore we, The Coalition for Justice and Fairness to Reform Law Enforcement (composed of citizens, businesses, faith-based, community activists, civil rights organizations, public officials, and students) have come together to help in providing strategies and a substantive working relationship with members of the law enforcement community. We are pleased and encouraged by the leadership offered by the President of the United States, in relation to these matters. The Federal Government has a historical responsibility and a significant duty in the application of justice and fairness for all of America's sons and daughters. The recent proposals made by the President of the United States offer a sign of possibility to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the communities in which they serve.

It is the intention of this coalition to meet with both the residents and members of the law enforcement community and our public officials, to discuss and to devise equitable strategies to preserve life, instill respect, and establish dignity for both the people at large and members of the law enforcement community in their engagement with each other. The preservation of life and the respect for justice are indeed paramount to all of us.

**Partial List of Members of the Coalition:**

Detroit Branch NAACP	LA SED
Arab Civil Rights League	Michigan Black Chamber Commerce
Ecumenical Theological Seminary	Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc.
Black Family Development Inc.	Office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr.
The Coalition against Police Brutality	Office of Congresswoman Elect Brenda Lawrence
Freedom Institute	Fannie Lou Hamer PAC
Moore Black Press Inc.	The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners
Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance	MOSES
Michigan Round Table	Michigan Legislative Black Caucus

#