



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT**

### **MICHIGAN STATE POLICE: TIME TO CHANGE THE CULTURE**

**DETROIT** – We are here today because there is a crisis that exists within our state. The crisis grows not only from the leadership of the Michigan State Police but from the culture that exists within that very department. It is a culture that is reflected by the unfortunate posting of Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, as she has referred to athletes who exercise their constitutional right as, *“A bunch of rich, entitled, arrogant, ungrateful, anti-American, degenerates, signed We The People.”* If this posting reflects the thinking of the head of the organization, then the body itself cannot function properly.

The current state of the Michigan State Police is one that has gone backwards since 1993. It was operating under a consent decree from the federal government. We have moved from 12.5% in minorities in 1993 to 6.4% in 2017. These numbers reflect the current downward spiral in a lack of hiring of African Americans, Latinos, women, and others. It is particularly disturbing when African Americans make up 14.2% of Michigan’s population, and out of 36 Michigan State Police officers, with a rank of inspector or higher, only 1 or less than 3% are African American.

We believe that Michigan can do better. We have spoken with retired state troopers, as well as some who are currently still within the department. There is a great concern in the direction the department is taking. Many individuals are afraid to speak on these issues due to a fear of retribution and a culture which would then prohibit their further advancement. There have been millions of dollars spent on cases of discrimination and internal abuse. This detracts from the ability of the department to spend adequate resources on training, recruitment, and to restore trust within the communities they are duty bound to serve.

This hearing will seek to provide and expose some of the internal issues that prevent the Michigan State Police from being a model department in Michigan and across the nation. This coalition of community organizations have been most concerned about the impact on our communities. If we continue down this path, it will impede our ability to recruit African Americans, Latinos, Arab Americans, women, and others who need to be able to trust and believe in the state police.

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**MSP Town Hall**

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The Michigan State Police have a duty and responsibility to operate with integrity and a respect for law for all Michiganders. This is a very serious hearing, and these are very serious matters that confront our community and our state. All of us must be concerned about their resolution. We have to work as a community for the transformation from a culture that restricts, to one that invites diversity and appreciation for all people.

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