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# 100

## BLACK MEN OF AMERICA, INC.

Alton/Madison County IL Chapter  
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Alton, IL 62002  
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## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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June, 2020

Position Statement: Concerning the Recent Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor Incidents from The 100 Black Men of America Alton/Madison County Illinois Chapter

The most recent occurrence of alleged police brutality has once again led to the death of an African-American man, Rayshard Brooks. As the incident was recorded, we are able to witness the sheer callousness and disregard for life, by an Atlanta police officer; which was punctuated by a brutal kick from that officer, as Mr. Brooks laid suffering on the ground.

With George Floyd, we literally see Mr. Floyd gasp his last breath under the knee of a white policeman, while begging for the help from his deceased mother. It is with disbelief, sadness, heartbreak, and, sometimes, uncontrollable anger that we stand watching our beloved country and its leaders accept and condone these actions.

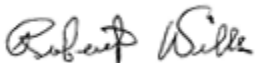
Ahmaud Arbery, the young Black man who lost his life while simply exercising his civil rights to jog on a public street, was cornered and killed by these white men because of their racial motivation. You only have to view the video of Ahmaud Arbery to realize the wanton and sick disregard the McMichaels had for the life of this young man. This image raises the memory of so many dark days in America, such as the Emmitt Till murder, and far too many others.

We are also outraged by the senseless killing of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky by white police officers allegedly seeking to serve a warrant. This young Black woman was murdered in her home, having been shot 8 times by police who alleged to have "mistakenly" killed her while trying to serve the warrant on another. These white officers' actions confirm a disregard for normal protocols in serving warrants because of their racial animus in profiling and a total disregard for equal enforcement of the law when Blacks are involved.

Sadly, it is widely understood, at least in brown and black communities, that these vile and overly aggressive police moves are predicated on the arresting officer's views on race and the hatred of people of color. Questions that beg and implore appropriate answers? When is enough –enough and when is it all going to stop? We can and must do better to create a culture of understanding, a climate of respect and an environment of safety for all people, but also sets in motion a plan that safeguards people of color.

We, the 100 Black Men of America Alton/Madison County Illinois Chapter, will seek to extend an open invitation to local civic leaders, politicians, faith leadership (churches), law enforcement and concerned citizens, the media outlets, and other significant 100 BMA stakeholders/supporters who can join with us in a resounding voice that says ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

As a first step we would encourage a roundtable discussion with the aforementioned parties on necessary and immediate policy changes, open and honest dialog about the state of our community, and real commitment to measurable improvements and or changes. Effective and immediate change is not just necessary, it is indeed a matter of life and death.



Robert Wills  
Chairman

*"We will only grasp the staggering potential of our time if we create onramps that empower ALL people to participate, regardless of background, country of origin, religious practice, gender, or color of skin."*

-**ROBERT SMITH** (African-American Billionaire and Philanthropist)

In 1986, the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Alton / Madison County Chapter was incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois and in 1988 became a tax-exempt non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.