

**NORTH BREVARD COUNTY BRANCH**



**NAACP**

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

August 17, 2020

Sheriff Wayne Ivey  
Brevard County Sheriff  
700 S. Park Ave.  
Titusville, FL 32780

Dear Sheriff Ivey:

Gregory Edwards was arrested on December 9, 2018, outside the Walmart store in Palm Bay, Florida. The next day, he was dead. The official Sheriff's Office statement regarding Mr. Edwards's death said he suffered a "medical emergency" while in jail custody, however your own internal investigation revealed Mr. Edwards was Tased multiple times, kned by officers, struck multiple times in the head, sprayed with a chemical agent, his head then covered with a spit mask and was strapped into a restraint chair before being left alone in a cell. Your sheriff's office internal investigation concluded that a number of sheriff's office policy violations occurred during the confrontation with corrections officers, but the state attorney's office cleared the officers of any wrongdoing. This has raised great concern among community members as to the thorough and fairness of this process.

Internal jail cameras recorded the incident, but you Sheriff Ivey, and the State Attorney's Office refuse to release the footage. The autopsy by Medical Examiner Sajeed Qaisar determined the cause of death as "excited delirium and complications" due to "hyperactive and violent state with subsequent restraint," and was ultimately ruled an accident. These findings are being questioned by other medical examiners and the community at large. Mr. Edwards's widow, Kathleen, has repeatedly requested the release of the tape, but to no avail. In the wake of recent demonstrations across the county, her cause has garnered massive support from the community who chant "release the tape", but the Sheriff however has excuse after excuse to keep the video from being released, despite the case being closed. Sheriff Ivey claims state law supports his refusal to release the tape and cites security concerns if the inner workings of the jail are exposed. However, State Attorney Phil Archer says the sheriff has the discretion to release the video and it is a known fact that the you frequently allows tours of the jail, and video surveillance of inmates allegedly committing crimes are regularly disclosed to attorneys in the ordinary discovery process. Sheriff Ivey, you must release the video, and an independent investigation must be conducted into

Mr. Edwards's death. The NAACP calls on Sheriff Ivey and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to release the video of the confrontation with corrections officers and for an independent investigation into the death of Mr. Edwards. This community has voiced outrage and demonstrated their lack of confidence in the sheriff's office to provide the citizens of this community with truthful and honest answers. As representatives of the community we want to strengthen our community's trust and help provide a framework that will instill a sense of fairness and justice for all. By releasing the video of the confrontation that ultimately led to Mr. Edwards death, that sense of trust and justice can be restored.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Davis*

Jeff Davis, President  
North Brevard NAACP

*William E. Gary*

William E. Gary, 1<sup>st</sup>. VP & Legal Redress Chair  
North Brevard NAACP

cc: Adora O. Nweze, President, Florida State Conference NAACP Branches  
cc: David Honing, Legal Counsel, Florida State Conference NAACP  
Branches

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<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2020/08/20/titusville-naacp-demands-sheriff-wayne-ivey-release-controversial-video/561240002/>