

Questioning the Answers in Hallandale Beach (February 2017)

A group of Hallandale Beach residents is requesting a special meeting with the FULL Hallandale Beach City Commission to discuss the use of force by the Hallandale Beach Police Department (HBPD).

We seek answers to the following questions:

- 1) Per a *New Times* report, since 2006, the HBPD conducted 38 SWAT raids to serve warrants for relatively minor drug offenses. The report also stated that most of those raids were concentrated in the Northwest section of Hallandale, a statistic that Chief Flournoy has refuted.
 - a. What percentage of these SWAT raids took place in Northwest Hallandale (west of US1 and North from Hallandale Beach Blvd)?
 - b. What percentage of the warrants were “high-risk” warrants vs. “low-risk” warrants?
 - c. Why did the HBPD continue to conduct SWAT raids, despite none of the raids resulting in the recovery of a substantial amount of drugs?
- 2) These SWAT raids culminated in the death of **Howard Wallace Bowe Jr.** in May 2014. Since then, the City Commissioners, City Attorney, and City Manager have refused to comment on the Bowe shooting because the case was under investigation. The criminal and departmental investigations have been completed and we once again ask the City Commissioners to speak openly and honestly about that event.
 - a. Why was it necessary to deploy a SWAT team to serve a warrant on Howard Bowe?
 - b. Why was it necessary to shoot Bowe’s dog, Tank, both with a shotgun and a handgun?
 - c. Did the police knock and announce their presence? If not, why not?
 - d. What threat did Bowe pose to officers when he was shot?
 - e. What threat did Bowe’s minor child pose to officers when he was forcibly detained?
 - f. What disciplinary actions, if any, were taken against any of the officers involved, including and up to the command staff?
- 3) The City Commissioners routinely field all questions regarding police use of force to the City Manager, City Attorney, or Chief of Police. We seek answers directly from our elected officials. If your answer to any or all of Question 2 is “no comment” based on ongoing civil litigation against the City of Hallandale Beach:

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- a. Will each City Commissioner give a statement, on the record, regarding the use of force by the HBPD, including as many of the following cases as the Commission is able and willing to discuss:
 - i. **Kareem McDonald** — shot in December 2011
 - ii. **Gregory Ehlers Jr.** — shot and killed in January 2012
 - iii. **Eduardo Prieto Jr.** — shot and killed in September 2012
 - iv. **Rashad Edwards** — shot in November 2013
 - v. **Julian Carson** — shot in March 2014
 - vi. **Michael Wilson Jr.** — shot and killed in May 2016
 - b. Please address whether any City Commissioners believe any of the above incidents constituted an excessive use of force.
 - c. Were any HPD personnel, including command staff, subject to any discipline in any of these cases? If so, on what grounds and what was the discipline?
 - d. Do the City Commissioners have an obligation to acknowledge allegations of discrimination in a truthful manner, rather than in a manner designed to limit civil liability?
 - e. If the truth would make Hallandale Beach more likely to be held liable for civil rights violations, do the City Commissioners have an obligation to protect the residents over and above the protecting the City's money?
 - f. Does constant litigation against the City of Hallandale Beach for excessive use of force make it impossible to ever discuss any HBPD use of force, including fatal shootings?
- 4) An outside consulting firm, Greenwood and Streicher, was hired by the Commission in December 2014 to investigate the HBPD use of force. Despite three meetings with the community to discuss police use of force, Greenwood and Streicher did not include community concerns regarding discriminatory and/or excessive use of force in their report.
- a. What is the nature of the relationship between Scott Greenwood, Tom Streicher, and TASER International—a weapons and body camera manufacturer?
 - b. What role, if any, did Greenwood and/or Streicher play in the decision to award a no-bid contract to TASER International to supply the body cameras for Hallandale Beach?

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- c. Was the City of Hallandale Beach aware of the investigations surrounding both Greenwood & Streicher and TASER in Albuquerque in December 2012?
 - d. Were any of the City Commissioners concerned that the final report issued by Greenwood & Streicher:
 - i. Was submitted six months behind schedule
 - ii. Omitted numerous community concerns
 - iii. Was copied and pasted together from a review of another city's police department
- 5) Despite these red flags, Greenwood and Streicher were awarded a second no-bid contract in May 2016 to act as outside consultants for the HBPD investigation into the shooting of **Howard Wallace Bowe Jr.** Now that the investigation is complete:
- a. What were the findings of the HBPD investigation regarding:
 - i. The necessity of the use of force in: deploying a 12-person SWAT team; arriving at 6:00 a.m.; going to the back of the house; shooting Tank; breaking down Bowe's door; deploying a flash bang grenade; shooting Bowe; and forcibly detaining Bowe's minor child.
 - ii. Any documents, including official reports, which were falsified in the aftermath of the Bowe shooting.
 - iii. Any sworn testimony which was later discovered to be false.
 - iv. The HBPD's knowledge of the presence of any dogs and/or minors at Bowe's home and any precautions taken to account for that presence.
 - b. Did police knock and announce their presence? If not, why not?
 - c. Is the official position of both the HBPD and the Hallandale Beach City Commission that no one did anything wrong regarding the shooting of **Howard Wallace Bowe Jr.**?
 - d. What role, if any, did Greenwood & Streicher play in conducting this investigation? Did Greenwood & Streicher issue an independent report on the Bowe shooting?
 - e. Please make available all public reports regarding the shooting of **Howard Wallace Bowe Jr.**
- 6) Hallandale Beach has been segregated throughout its history along the Dixie Railroad tracks. Discrimination against the predominantly black residents of the West—

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particularly the Northwest (a/k/a “The Palms”)—is well documented. What, if anything, does the City plan to do to combat perceptions of continued racism and discrimination in Hallandale Beach, including:

- a. Disproportionate investments in projects located in West Hallandale in comparison to projects located in East Hallandale.
 - b. Lack of representation by persons of color in high-level government positions following the recent firings of the City Manager and City Attorney, both minorities.
 - c. Efforts by City officials to end development projects in Northwest Hallandale that have already been approved.
 - d. Long-term investment in building up historically neglected areas of Hallandale and the residents who live there.
- 7) On January 16, 2017, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a fatal shooting took place in Hallandale Beach. The shooting was the result of an argument between two Hallandale Beach residents, both of whom were lawfully carrying firearms. The shooter is not being charged with a crime and was deemed to have been defending himself under the Stand Your Ground law. Nevertheless, City officials have used this incident to propose restricting MLK Day festivities in Northwest Hallandale.
- a. Does the City recognize the importance of continuing to hold MLK Day events in the historically black area of Hallandale Beach?
 - b. Will the City renounce the racist, derogatory language of Vice Mayor London, who has repeatedly referred to the incident as an example of “the inmates running the asylum?”
 - c. Is the City committed to respecting ALL of its residents’ basic rights to assemble?
 - d. Is the City committed to respecting ALL of its residents’ basic rights to bear arms in accordance with Florida law?