

For Immediate Release

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**Statement from Attorney Teresa A. Caine Bingman, Attorney for the Family of Isaiah Kirby**

Police officers gunned down and killed another Black man. The loss of Black life during police encounters is a national crisis, and now it has reached East Lansing, Michigan.

Against a backdrop of growing and persistent concerns and complaints that East Lansing, Michigan police officers have disproportionately targeted Black men with excessive force, on April 15<sup>th</sup> in the streets of East Lansing, Isaiah Kirby, a 21-year-old Michigan State University senior, a Black man, was gunned down and killed by police officers.

I represent the family of Isaiah Kirby. After meeting with Isaiah's mother, Karyn Kirby, and hearing firsthand what she has experienced since her son was killed by East Lansing Police officers, including viewing her son's body, this case presents deeply troubling and urgent questions that demand immediate, full, and transparent answers.

Isaiah Kirby was just weeks away from graduating from Michigan State University. He was a scholar, having graduated from Sparrows Point High School in Maryland, with a 4.2 Grade Point Average.

Isaiah was an aspiring Herpetologist with a passion for reptiles, and a young man who had already begun building a meaningful future through his academic work, internships, and employment in the field he loved. That future was violently taken from him on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This case is not about allegations. It is about whether deadly force used by police was lawful, necessary, and justified at the precise moment it was used.

Based on what his mother personally observed, including having counted at least 17 gunshot wounds in her son's body, including multiple wounds to his back - the use of deadly force in this case must be subjected to the highest level of independent scrutiny.

The law is clear: deadly force is justified only where there is an immediate threat of death or serious injury. That determination must be grounded in objective facts - not assumptions, not evolving narratives, and not conclusions reached after the fact.

We are also deeply concerned by how this investigation is being handled.

The family has been informed that video evidence may be compiled or edited before it is shown. In a case that involves a human being killed by the police, that approach is unacceptable. The

family, and the public, are entitled to complete, unedited video evidence. Transparency cannot be selective.

Equally concerning is that information has been released publicly without prior notice to the family, while the family has struggled to obtain even basic information about the circumstances surrounding Isaiah's death. That imbalance raises serious concerns about the integrity of the process.

Questions also remain regarding investigative actions currently being pursued, including efforts that appear disconnected from the scene itself. These actions warrant careful examination and reinforce the need for an independent and objective review.

This case demands full transparency, accountability, and a process that is grounded in truth. Our office has taken immediate steps to request the preservation of all evidence. We will conduct a thorough and independent investigation, and we will follow the evidence wherever it leads. Isaiah Kirby was a son, a brother, nephew, grandson and a friend.

Isaiah Kirby was a young man filled with promise. His life mattered.

A jury may ultimately be asked to determine whether his life was unlawfully taken.

We intend to bring the full truth to light and to hold those responsible accountable. Isaiah Kirby, his family, and the communities that support them are entitled to justice and clarity—secured through the courts and supported by transparent, accurate, and publicly accessible reporting as this investigation unfolds.

Teresa A. Caine Bingman, Esq.

Attorney for the Family of Isaiah Kirby