



NAACP
Lansing Branch

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NAACP Lansing Branch demands transparency, accountability after East Lansing Police Use-of-Force against Black woman

East Lansing, MI — The NAACP Lansing Branch is calling for the immediate release of body-camera footage and a full independent review following a use-of-force incident involving the East Lansing Police Department (ELPD) and a black woman early Sunday morning, leaving her with multiple injuries.

According to cellphone footage recorded outside of Harper's Restaurant and Brew Pub, a police officer punched Myana Collins, 20, several times on the back and arm while she was lying on the ground face down, handcuffed and restrained at the legs.

According to the family, Collins had been out with friends when she was approached by several ELPD officers outside of Harper's. Shortly after leaving the restaurant, the family reports that Collins was tased multiple times and handcuffed. The cellphone footage recorded by a bystander at the scene shows several police officers around Collins holding her face down on the ground handcuffed when she began screaming for help and begging officers not to kill her. The video shows that Collins was detained and did not pose a threat, yet, a police officer punches her several times while yelling at her. According to her family, Collins was terrified throughout the encounter.

Collins was subsequently taken to the hospital, where she underwent a CT scan to assess her multiple injuries to the face, arm, back and legs. Cellphone video of the incident has circulated on social media showing part of the encounter; however, ELPD has not released any body-worn camera footage. The family says they have not received any official documentation from the department regarding the incident. Collins was later released and has not been charged with a crime, according to the family.

"Once again this disturbing video shows the East Lansing Police Department's use of excessive force on another Black person, this time a black woman," said James McCurtis Jr., president of the NAACP Lansing Branch. "When will it end? This is an outrage. The culture at East Lansing Police is mired in a troubling pattern of racism. This culture starts with the department's

leadership — Police Chief Jennifer Brown. Brown needs to resign, or Interim City Manager Annette Irwin needs to fire her — period. Anything less is a message that Black and Brown people are not welcome in East Lansing."

The NAACP Lansing Branch is demanding that:

- ELPD immediately release all body-worn camera footage from the incident
- ELPD and the City of East Lansing provide full transparency regarding the incident and its aftermath
- The City conduct a full review of use of force practices within ELPD
- Police Chief Jennifer Brown resign, or be terminated by Interim City Manager Annette Irwin

The Branch will continue to monitor this case and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

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