

November 5, 2019

Stamford Board of Representatives
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd, 4th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06904-2152

Re: Special meeting of the Board to address the death of Steven Barrier

Dear Members of the Board:

With each day that passes since Steven Barrier's death, it becomes more and more evident that a young man in clear distress was denied medical care that could have saved his life. The arresting officers were aware of Steven's medical condition, yet they acted with callous disregard to his well-being by refusing to take him to the hospital – a hospital they almost certainly passed on the way to the police station- and then mocking Steven by joking that he deserved an Oscar for faking his injury as he lie dying without anyone rendering any aid for several minutes.

These callous and inexplicable actions by the Stamford Police Department defy any sense of human decency or common sense and have led to widespread community concern and questions about the policies, practices and training of our local law enforcement and what role these issues of policy, practice and training played in the events leading to Steven's death.

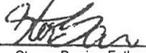
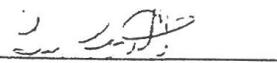
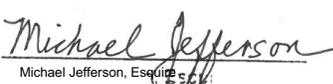
Consequently, we are calling on the Stamford Board of Representatives to convene an emergency meeting to address the policies, practices and protocols of the Stamford Police Department. Specifically, we demand that the Board question the Chief of Police on the detail of events and conduct of the police officers that transpired prior to and following Steven Barrier being taken into custody and determine whether the conduct and actions of the police complied with all relevant Department policies, protocols and practices. We further demand that the Chief discipline any officer found to have violated any Department policy, practice or protocol, including the failure to follow proper protocol related to the use of body cams.

It is clear from the handling of similar cases that no consistent policy exists for accessing or providing medical assistance for citizens in need. Why was Steven not taken to the hospital, when others are often provided that vital aid? Why, also, were the body cam videos not on during the moments prior to Steven being handcuffed? The citizens of Stamford and the family of Steven Barrier deserve answers.

As the Stamford Board of Representatives, you swore an oath to be the community's voice and advocate in demanding accountability, transparency, and fair and humane treatment of all residents by local powers such as law enforcement. It is a matter of urgency and credibility for law enforcement and for our elected leaders that you convene a special meeting of the Board to address the community's many questions surrounding the Stamford Police Department and the

tragic death of Steven Barrier.

Respectfully,

 Valerie Jadda, Mother	 Steven Barrier, Father	 Shane Aaronis, Brother
 Guy Fortt, Executive Board Member NAACP Stamford Branch	 David McGuire, Executive Director ACLU of Connecticut	
Attorneys for the Barrier Family		
 Benjamin L. Camp, Esquire	 Michael Jefferson, Esquire	

cc: Chief Thomas Wuennemann
Mayor David R. Martin