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NAACP Legal Defense Fund Statement on Murder Charges in Police Shooting of Jordan Edwards

Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), issued the following statement regarding the murder charges brought against the former Balch Springs, Texas, police officer who fatally shot Jordan Edwards last Saturday night:

“We are gratified that authorities in Texas have moved swiftly to file murder charges against and fire former Balch Springs Police Officer Roy Oliver for the shooting death of Jordan Edwards. Make no mistake though, this is not reason to rejoice. We are at the start of a long, arduous process that all too often ends without a conviction or jail time. The facts as we know them are horrific and we demand the strictest accountability under law. We will continue to monitor the impending proceeding closely, and to advocate fiercely that this officer will be held accountable for his crime unlike so many of his peers. We also demand that the systemic concerns raised by this incident are addressed by the Balch Springs Police Department.”

“Now that charges have been filed, we call on the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office to immediately release video footage of the shooting, as well as any incident reports that may implicate officers who attempted to cover up their colleague’s misconduct. Transparency and accountability are both essential to ensuring justice for Mr. Edwards and his family.”

“At this time, our thoughts are with the Edwards family, who have been forced to suffer an excruciating loss that no one should have to endure.”

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Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation’s first civil and human rights law organization and has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the
NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF’s Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF.