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November 19, 2020

Via First Class and Electronic Mail

Denise Champagne, Administrative Officer
Baldwin Police Department
101 Live Oak Street
Baldwin, LA 70514
Lawgirl900@outlook.com

Baldwin Police Department
Public Records Request
P.O. Box 87
Baldwin, LA 70514

Re: Investigation of Death of Quawan “Bobby” Charles

Dear Deputy Spencer:

On behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”), we write to request information regarding your office’s investigation of the disappearance and death of Quawan “Bobby” Charles (“Charles”), a 15 year-old Black child.

LDF is the nation’s oldest civil rights law organization. Founded in 1940 by Thurgood Marshall, the country’s first Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice, LDF has used litigation, policy advocacy, public education, and community organizing strategies to achieve racial justice and equity in the areas of education, economic justice, political participation, and criminal justice. Throughout its history, LDF has consistently worked to promote laws and policies that are administered fairly and without regard to race.

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act § 44:1 et seq., we request copies of the following public records:

1. All documents, correspondence, records, writings, letters, drawings, memoranda, papers, drafts, photographs, maps, telephone call logs, and audio and video recordings relating to Charles’ disappearance on October 30, 2020 and status as a missing, abducted, or runaway child, including but not limited to police and incident reports, emails, forms, interviews, and correspondence with a coroner and other law enforcement agencies.
2. All documents, correspondence, records, writings, letters, drawings, memoranda, papers, drafts, photographs, maps, telephone call logs, and audio and video recordings relating to the discovery of Charles’ body and cause of death, including but not limited to police and



incident reports, emails, forms, interviews, and correspondence with a coroner and other law enforcement agencies.

3. All policies, protocols, manuals, guidance, rules, and procedures concerning missing children and youth, including issuance and response to AMBER Alerts, missing child advisories, public reports of missing, abducted, or runaway children, and law enforcement response to children in, or believed to be in, imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
4. The total number of missing children and youth, disaggregated by the missing child's age, race, ethnicity, and gender known by or reported to the Baldwin Police Department, and related case investigations opened since January 1, 2010 to present.
5. The total number of cases of missing children, disaggregated by the missing child's age, race, ethnicity, and gender that the Baldwin Police Department has resolved since January 1, 2010 to present, and the method of resolution or clearance in each case.
6. The total number of AMBER Alerts and missing child advisories the Baldwin Police Department has issued, since January 1, 2010, disaggregated by the missing child's age, race, ethnicity and gender.
7. All documents, including but not limited to, formal and informal complaints and lawsuits, alleging, in whole or in part, the Baldwin Police Department, its officers, detectives, assigns, or staff of discourtesy, failure to investigate, race discrimination, bias, or racism.
8. All documents, including but not limited to, investigations of crimes in which a person's race is alleged to have been a factor and where the Baldwin Police Department, its officers, detectives, assigns, or staff have participated in the investigation.

LDF seeks your immediate response, no later than 3 business days after receipt of this request. La. R.S. §§ 44:32 and 44:33.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please provide an invoice detailing additional reasonable standard charges prior to fulfilling this request. However, LDF respectfully requests a waiver of all fees because it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the information is not being sought for commercial purposes. LDF will use such information to inform its public education and advocacy efforts.

Please provide the documents requested in an electronic format to the extent possible, and all data and statistical information in a format that is searchable and analyzable, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.



If it is your position that responsive records exist, but those records or portions of those records are exempt from disclosure, please identify the records that are being withheld and state the basis for the denial for each record being withheld within three business days, as required by La. R.S. § 44:32(D). Please also provide the nonexempt portions of the records.

If a record contains a juvenile's name or other personal identifying information that must be redacted in accordance with La. R.S. § 44:4.1, please redact the required information, state the purpose of the redaction, and produce the nonexempt portions of the record.

Finally, if any of the requested records are not currently in your possession, please notify us in writing, and provide any and all information about where and with whom the records may be found, requested, viewed or copied, and/or when they will become available to your office.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Katurah Topps at 212-965-2200 or ktopps@naacpldf.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Janai S. Nelson

Janai S. Nelson
Associate Director-Counsel