



BRILLIANT MINDS COLLECTIVE
Advocating for the Advancement of Black People

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2021

**BRILLIANT MINDS COLLECTIVE RELEASES STATEMENTS ON DAUNTE WRIGHT AND
MURDERS OF BLACKS IN MINNEAPOLIS AND OTHER U.S. CITIES**

New York, NY -- Brilliant Minds Collective has released the following two statements regarding the killing of Daunte Wright and unarmed Black People in Minneapolis and other U.S. cities:

Just under a year ago, the George Floyd murder put Minneapolis on the world stage with protests all over the globe calling for reforms in law enforcement and policing. Sadly, nothing has changed. We join the outrage and mourning of the senseless killing of another unarmed Black man, Daunte Wright, just 10 miles away from where the world is presently holding its breath awaiting the verdict in the Derek Chauvin murder trial.

Therefore, we are working with community leaders and other like-minded organizations to create a comprehensive plan for change. This will include a strategy for Black People and all Persons of Color to feel safe and protected in their own backyards, within the confines of the law. We are dedicated to taking action towards building a better future.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Daunte Wright, George Floyd, and all those who have lost loved ones at the very hands of the people entrusted to protect and serve.

-- Brilliant Minds Collective, Advocating for the Advancement of Black People

Brilliant Minds Collective, stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, yet again, as we all raise our fists and voices against the continued and unfettered murderous violence perpetrated against us, just because we're Black. This story is constantly repeating itself and given our history of continually appealing to law enforcement to change how our communities are policed, we are still met with broken promises, appeasements and placating rhetoric that bring no substantial change, whatsoever. Our criminal justice system is broken and its overhaul is long overdue.

Our appeals, our pleas and our marches have fallen on deaf ears. The media has not garnered us support and instead they rotate talking heads to help sensationalize our heart-wrenching stories in order to garner higher ratings for themselves. They, along with our elected politicians offer up no solutions, other than the coin-of-the-realm platitudes of "police reform" along with a host of other vapid buzz-words and boring suggestions that never come to fruition. We have had enough and now need to fight our way out of a corner that they have shoved us into.

As we can no longer wait for others to institute meaningful change, we must now take action into our own hands. We must galvanize our communities to act as one cohesive unit to ensure we are kept safe from the very forces that are supposed to protect us.

We, therefore, have come up with eight steps to start to create the change we so desperately need:

1. Communities must organize and develop an Action Plan on how to keep everyone safe.
2. We must work within the confines of the law to protect our communities against rogue officers who show no deference for the law.
3. Establish a Community Patrol that can act as intermediaries between Law Enforcement and the community.
4. Complete transparency through access to Police Personnel Files so that we know who is patrolling our communities.
5. Challenge our Politicians to be actively engaged and hold them accountable if they are not.
6. Communities need to push to have more Officers-of-Color in our neighborhoods. We need to patrol our own communities.
7. Create safe havens in places of worship (churches, mosques, temples) and put a system in place where commanding officers are notified for intercession.
8. Encourage our community to say something. More often than not, Black communities are reluctant to report abusive and disrespectful behavior. We must stand up for accountability.

-- **Garrett Fortner, BMC Community Chair**

About Brilliant Minds Collective:

Brilliant Minds Collective (BMC) is a non-traditional, action driven Think Tank advocating for the advancement of Black People globally. BMC started organically as a group of mostly Black professionals from the breadth of the Diaspora who were looking to do something about the ongoing injustices against Black People. Black People regularly face overwhelming social and systemic challenges such as social injustice, financial insecurities, education inequalities and lack of health and human services.

As an action driven Think Tank, BMC strives to not only provide answers and information, but to partner with like-minded organizations and individuals and open doors for educated and experienced leaders, doers, and drivers to engage the community to make meaningful, lasting change socially, economically, environmentally and politically.

We are willing to break out of individual silos, engage in difficult conversations, share knowledge, exchange information, and take action. There's an old African proverb that says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This group is filled with brilliant minds who share an everyday commitment to create a better world for Black People by exploring opportunities which will become catalysts to drive permanent change.

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