

OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTING OF DUANTE WRIGHT AND THE PEPPER SPRAYING OF CARON NAZARIO

To say that the National Bar Association is tired of writing statements in response to the shooting of Black people at the hands of law enforcement would be an understatement. Equally exhausting is living as a Black person in a country that ***continuously*** evidences that there are different rules for the majority than the minority.

This week, Daunte Wright was pulled over in Minnesota for allegedly expired vehicle registration. Somehow an altercation ensues in which there was a struggle which led an officer to reach for what she is reporting she believed was her taser. The officer called out "Tazer!" before firing a single shot that ended the life of Wright.

Also disturbing is the video of U.S. Army Soldier being pepper sprayed by a police officer in an encounter that was initiated due to the officer claiming there were issues with the soldier's license plate. In the disturbing video, Army Second Lieutenant Caron Nazario is heard saying that he was afraid to exit his vehicle to which the officer replies, "You should be!" Nazario was pepper sprayed and verbally degraded by the officer. The officer has since been terminated.

While some may argue there is always room for more investigation to be done, there is no question that White people are apprehended by the police everyday without being shot to death. Whether it be outright racism or implicit bias that causes White officers to be more likely to reach for their guns when apprehending people of color, something must change.

While we may have grown tired of the headlines, we must never grow tired of the fight for justice. We will continue to be vocal about these injustices and demand that swift action be taken to ensure unbiased and independent investigations of these incidents and that justice is served.