



FORT WORTH TARRANT COUNTY  
**NAACP**  
CHARTERED 1934

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***Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAACP  
Joins the Charge to bring Equity to Criminal Justice System***

Fort Worth, TX, June 12, 2024 -- The President of the Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAACP, Estella Williams, released the following statement regarding the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's ruling in the Anthony Ray Johnson, Jr. in-custody death:

*The Tarrant County Medical Examiner has ruled that Anthony Ray Johnson, Jr.'s in-custody death, which was caught on video, as HOMICIDE! It is clear there are serious problems with our criminal justice system, but to people trapped within it, the harms run deeper than the headlines can convey.*

*Based on mounting evidence, we believe that the responsibility for the jail's culture of death and the historical and escalating inmate death toll in the Tarrant County jail falls clearly on Sheriff Bill Waybourn. We maintain that there is no system too big to reimagine — not even the Tarrant County criminal justice system.*

*The Fort Worth/Tarrant County Branch of the NAACP is greatly disappointed in Sherriff Waybourn's failure to adequately manage the county jail. In light of the examiner's findings on Anthony Ray Johnson, Jr.'s cause of death, we renew our call for a federal investigation of the Tarrant County Jail by the Department of Justice. We furthermore take the position that, in the best interest of the citizens of Tarrant County, and for those within the system to adequately address and correct these issues, that it is time for Sheriff Waybourn to resign.*

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