



The Race to Equity Project's Statement on the Death of Tony Robinson

The Race to Equity Project is deeply saddened by the news that Tony Robinson, a 19 year old African American male, was shot and killed by a Madison police officer. Tony was a loving son, brother and valued friend. He recently graduated from Sun Prairie High School with plans to attend Madison College and pursue a degree in business. His tragic death has left our community shocked, confused and searching for answers.

No one can undo the tragedy, the inexpressible grief, and the unimaginable loss that has befallen Tony's family and friends. Nor can anyone lift the anguish and agony that we are presently feeling and seeing reverberate across our community: our churches, our neighborhoods, our city, our state and our country.

But we must persevere. Tony Robinson's death must move us all to a renewed determination to bring greater justice, greater security and greater value to the lives of every child, every youth and every family in the community, regardless of their race, ethnicity, circumstances, or national origin.

We must understand that Tony's death is not disconnected from our community's inability to assure a level playing field for ALL our children and families. In light of this, the Race to Equity team intends to redouble our efforts to honestly present our community's failure to ensure equitable opportunity, access, resources, and justice to Dane County's communities of color. We intend to deepen our support to the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition as well as all our other allies in the advocacy, service, faith, public and private sectors who are fighting for real change in the policies, practices, structures, habits, and attitudes that are putting too many of our black and brown families at risk of failing to secure their fundamental human rights and realize their full human potential.

Race to Equity has resolved that we will not rest until we can report that Madison and Dane County have genuinely become places where the opportunities to be well, to learn, to work, to prosper, to be safe, and to be respected are equitably distributed across every community within our county.

In this time of grief and reflection, that is our pledge and promise.

- The Race to Equity Team: Erica Nelson, Torry Winn, Michelle Robinson, Ken Taylor and Wenona Wolf

For more information on Race to Equity or to contact us see www.racetoequity.net, www.wccf.org, www.facebook.com/racetoequity.