

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact:

Dr. Karen A. Johnson

360-888-5767

blackalliancethurstoncounty@gmail.com

Police Use of Deadly Force Should be Last Resort Dec 5th Legislative Campaign Kick-off 61st anniversary of Montgomery bus boycott

Olympia WA, December 4, 2016 –In its report submitted to the Governor and House and Senate committees on December 1, the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Deadly Force in Community Policing recommended several actions to reduce violent and deadly interactions between police and the public, including removing the “malice” and “good faith” defense from state law.

“Removing the barrier to prosecution is essential, and we applaud the work of the Task Force. This is just the start of what needs to be done with the statute. Our goal is to make deadly force the last resort and we will be working to get this framework enacted into law,” said Leslie Cushman and Kathy Baros Friedt, leaders of the Olympia Coalition to Reform Deadly Force Laws, Washington State.

The heart of the legislative campaign is to reduce violence and protect the sanctity of life. It seeks to make the use of de-escalation and less lethal alternatives the first resort for law enforcement when making split second life or death decisions. “We believe this proposal will make police work safer. It embeds into state law the paramount duty of police, which is to protect the sanctity of the life of the police, the public, and suspects. Above all, we want a law that reflects our shared values of liberty, dignity and respect for all,” said Dr. Karen A. Johnson, Chair and Co-Founder of the Black Alliance of Thurston County.

This bill proposal is sponsored by Senator John McCoy and has the support of community advocates representing diverse communities across the State.

Dr. Karen A. Johnson, Co-Founder of the Black Alliance of Thurston County, and members of the Joint Legislative Task Force will be available to talk to the press on Monday, December 5th at 8 am at the Joel M. Pritchard Building on the Capitol Campus. Potential bill sponsors and legislators are invited to attend.

###

About Black Alliance of Thurston County

The Black Alliance of Thurston County is committed to building trust and promoting fair and impartial policing in Thurston County. We support courageous and respectful conversations between communities and law enforcement about race, ethnicity, and income status. We work for systemic change and call for legislative reform, including greater diversity in the legislature. For more information, visit

www.blackalliancethurston.org