



NBPA

For Immediate Release

The National Black Prosecutors Association is deeply troubled by the events surrounding the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, and three Indianapolis police involved deaths in rapid succession.

While recusal was appropriate in Georgia, the harm that was done to the case by the elected prosecutor allegedly preventing an arrest is very problematic. The second prosecutor, who eventually recused himself as well, also made a number of statements regarding the viability of the case. The American Bar Association clearly sets forth in its standards *“The prosecutor should not permit the prosecutor’s professional judgment or obligations to be affected by the prosecutor’s personal, political, financial, professional, business, property, or other interests or relationships.”* The elected prosecutor in this case should not have interfered in the decision to arrest due to her pre-existing relationship with the defendants. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. states, “justice delayed is justice denied”. We are encouraged by the news that the Georgia Attorney General has appointed Cobb County District Attorney Joynette Holmes as the new special prosecutor of this matter.

Separately, also alarming are three deadly incidents in one day in Indiana. The comments heard on video, attributed to Indianapolis law enforcement during one of the two police involved shootings were callous, at best. While subsequent investigation will review the actions of each officer for legal justification, if any, incidents like these continue to erode the public trust in law enforcement—particularly in communities of color.

These events continue to highlight the broader discussion around diversity in **all** levels of prosecution and law enforcement, as well as the importance of sustained anti-bias training. Our heartfelt sympathies go to those who are grieving due to these matters.

The NBPA is the only organization dedicated to the hiring, advancement, and retention of African Americans as prosecutors. Learn more at www.blackprosecutors.org

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