

#  **NEWS RELEASE**

**Response to Mitch Mitchell Contact: Alisa Simmons**

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**RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM STAR-TELEGRAM’S MITCH MITCHELL REGARDING TARRANT COUNTY POLICE SHOOTINGS**

The NAACP is concerned about the needless shooting of ***any*** citizen, not just those of African descent.  Police have a job to do and the NAACP has never been opposed to police officers justly carrying out their duties. Our concerns and advocacy center on unnecessary conflict escalations and confrontations in our communities and the needless shootings of black men and boys who posed no risk or threat.

As citizens of Tarrant County, we must insist that our police officers are held to a higher standard. It’s imperative that officers rely on their training to de-escalate conflicts as opposed to bias (racial, class).  Government is here to protect our rights, not violate our rights. It seems that at any time, our rights can be violated by police and then various laws and policies are used to justify their conduct rather than hold them accountable. We will continue to insist that those few police officers that do act recklessly and shoot unarmed citizens be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

**-ALISA SIMMONS**

 **PRESIDENT**

 **ARLINGTON NAACP**