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**NWA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COUNCIL**

P.O. BOX 3453  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72702

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January 30, 2023

It is with great sorrow that we the Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council mourn the death of Tyre Nichols. We are outraged and heartbroken at this senseless act of violence that took the life of yet another African American man and father. We stand in solidarity with Tyre's family, friends, and the greater community as they seek justice and healing from this tragic loss. No life should be taken in such a violent and heartbreaking way. In his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King articulated that "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

As we reflect on this loss, we are reminded of the harsh reality of racial injustice that continues to plague our nation. We must take this tragedy as an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of Dr. King, who was also killed in Memphis, TN, more than 50 years ago. We must recognize that the systemic racism and oppression that he dedicated his life to dismantling is still prevalent in 2023. We must acknowledge and confront the systemic barriers that continue to divide us and work to create a society in which all people have an opportunity to thrive.

At this moment, we call on all people of conscience to join us in speaking out against violence and injustice and to take action to create a more just and equitable world. We must come together in solidarity to ensure that Tyre Nichols' life was not taken in vain and that his death serves as a catalyst for change. As we remember him, we rededicate ourselves to the work of social justice and police reform in our community, as this egregious act is a cry for change. May his memory be a blessing, and may his death inspire us all to work together to create a world in which all people are valued and treated with dignity and respect.

*Lindsey Leverett-Higgins*

Lindsey Leverett-Higgins  
President, NWA MLK Council