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ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA EXPRESSES OUTRAGE OVER THE DEATH OF 15-YEAR OLD JORDAN EDWARDS



Chicago, Illinois – May 15, 2017 -- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, expressed deep sadness over the death of Texas youth Jordan Edwards and expresses its sympathy and prayers to his family. On Saturday, April 29, 2017, 15-year old Edwards, was shot and killed by an officer of the Balch Springs Police Department. Edwards was shot in the back of the head, by Officer Roy Oliver, while sitting in the passenger seat of a car that was driving away from a house party. The officer has since been arrested on murder charges and fired from the police department.

International President, Dr. Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, speaking on behalf of the sorority's 290,000 members worldwide, called this horrific act "disturbing and shocking," but feels encouraged that swift action was taken by local law enforcement to take this officer off the streets of Balch Springs. "We join the call for a transparent and comprehensive investigation that delivers justice to the victims' loved ones and the community at large," said Dr. Buckhanan Wilson.

Over the last two years, Alpha Kappa Alpha members throughout the United States have met with elected officials during the sorority's Day at the Capitol events to Take ACTION and 'Be the Voice' on issues of injustice and other concerns that disproportionately impact African Americans, women, youth and minorities. The sorority continues to encourage all communities across the country to contact their legislatures demanding they enact changes in the judicial process including legislation requiring the use of body cameras by all officers, the appointment of special prosecutors during police-involved shooting investigations. sanctioning incident de-escalation tactics, and providing mental illness and cultural competency training for all police officers.

Buckhanan Wilson said Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, with a massive network of members in 1,006 local chapters worldwide, plans to monitor the Edwards' shooting investigation, and will remain vigilant to ensure that justice is served.

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