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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY EXPRESSES
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LACK OF INDICTMENT
IN ERIC GARNER CASE**



Chicago, Illinois – December 4, 2014 -- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, expressed deep disappointment and concern Thursday over the grand jury decision in the death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man killed while in a chokehold applied by a white police officer in New York City. International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, speaking on behalf of the sorority’s 265,000 members worldwide, called the decision by the grand jury "disturbing and shocking in the face of video evidence presented in the case.”

The announcement of the jury report comes just over a week after a similar decision in Ferguson, MO, that involved an unarmed black man and a white police officer. The incidents and the decisions shake the faith of African Americans in the U.S. justice system, and continue to send the wrong message to the black community.

“The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are flabbergasted that Officer Daniel Pantaleo will not go to trial for Mr. Garner’s death,” Buckhanan Wilson said. “We are saddened that the judicial process again has been short-circuited, this time in the face of compelling video evidence. This sends the wrong message to a citizenry raised on the premise of fair and equal treatment for all.”

After deliberating for less than one day, a Staten Island grand jury returned a “no bill,” refusing to indict Officer Pantaleo, whose fatal encounter with Mr. Garner for selling loose cigarettes in July was captured on video and viewed worldwide. The decision caused another wave of protests in a community already shaken by the outcome in the Michael Brown murder.

Buckhanan Wilson urged residents in New York City and around the country to remain calm while protesting peacefully and calling for changes in the judicial process including legislation requiring the use of body cams by all officers and the appointment of special prosecutors during police involved shooting investigations. She noted that the investigation ordered by Attorney General Eric Holder is a positive step.

The sorority, through its network of chapters around the world, will continue its push for social justice for all, and will advocate for judicial fairness for black men and others who are victimized by the system, Buckhanan Wilson said.

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