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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY EXPRESSES
CONCERN ABOUT DEATH OF SANDRA BLAND**



Chicago, Illinois – July 20, 2015 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, (AKA) is profoundly troubled by the circumstances surrounding the sudden and tragic death of Sandra Bland, who was found dead in her Waller County, Texas, jail cell on July 13. The sudden death of the 28-year-old Naperville, Illinois native, arrested and incarcerated after a vehicle traffic stop on July 10, has sparked outrage from her family, friends and concerned citizens across the country and around the world who are calling for answers and an immediate investigation.

A 2009 graduate of Prairie View A&M University and proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, Bland is being remembered as a vibrant, vocal and intelligent young woman with a passion for social justice and civil rights, thus making the uncertainty and potential misconduct around her death unconscionable and intolerable.

As both the FBI and the Texas Rangers investigate the circumstances surrounding Bland’s death including the video footage of her arrest, the Texas Department of Public Safety has identified “violations” of departmental procedures. The entire truth and full details of this heart-breaking incident are yet to be uncovered.

“Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, with its massive network of members in 988 local chapters worldwide, will monitor ongoing developments related to this case,” says Alpha Kappa Alpha International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson. “Our sorority will remain vigilant in ensuring that justice is served and violations such as the ones identified do not continue to be a mainstay in the treatment of young African Americans when in police custody.” Buckhanan Wilson has additionally called for a thorough and independent investigation into this matter to conclusively identify Bland’s cause of death and she urges the Texas Department of Public Safety to work with the Waller County Police Department to address these procedural “violations” immediately.

Buckhanan Wilson is offering the sorority’s support to Sandra Bland’s family and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members are encouraged to lend their voices and support efforts that help secure answers that lead to swift justice in this most disturbing case.

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