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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Family of Ta'Neasha Chappell Reacts to Decision to Not Prosecute

On July 16, 2021, 23-year-old Ta'Neasha Chappell died in Jackson County, Indiana. Our investigation has revealed that this was due to poisoning by inmates, followed by 24 hours of gross neglect by jail workers. As Ta'Neasha continued to suffer, jail workers continued to ignore her. If only one member of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department had stepped up and brought Ta'Neasha to the hospital when it was clear that she needed to go, Ta'Neasha would have lived.

Today, more than 5 months after Ta'Neasha's death, her family was provided with the investigative findings of the Jackson County prosecutor. Once again, the system has failed a grieving family whose loved one died because of the actions of law enforcement. The prosecutor, who works alongside the Jackson County Sheriff's Department on a daily basis, spent the first six pages of his 15-page report detailing Ta'Neasha's criminal charges from May of 2021. This is the classic playbook used to attack the character of the victim. Notably, the report says nothing about the individuals who caused Ta'Neasha to die. Then, the prosecutor goes through a timeline which omits key details and which paints a picture of jailers who were compassionate and attentive to Ta'Neasha's needs. The report, frankly, is unbelievable.

The prosecutor's report omits critical evidence from its findings. For example, multiple witnesses have identified how Ta'Neasha was poisoned and what poisoned her. The prosecutor conveniently elected to keep this out of his report. Evidence establishes that well before an ambulance was called for Ta'Neasha at 3:15 pm on July 16, a jailer had determined that Ta'Neasha needed to go to the hospital, yet she was not taken. This is not in the report. Members of the jail lied to investigators about which chemical agents were present within the jail when Ta'Neasha was poisoned, causing investigators to be unaware that certain cleaners were there when Ta'Neasha died. This was withheld from the report.

There were inmates who wanted to harm Ta'Neasha. Ta'Neasha had been subjected to an environment in which she was repeatedly called a N####R, had nooses placed in her cell and had been targeted by other inmates. Their mission to harm Ta'Neasha was accomplished. And then law enforcement let her suffer and die.

The Chappell family is justifiably angry and confused. Law enforcement did not protect, did not serve and instead watched as a young mother suffered and died. Then, a local prosecutor who works side by side with these law enforcement officials stepped in and protected them. It's a messed-up system.

The Chappell family insists that a federal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Ta'Neasha's death is imperative. The Jackson County Jail has a pattern and practice of

depriving those confined there of basic constitutional rights. Multiple people have died as a result. And the message sent today by the Jackson County prosecutor is this that conduct will continue to be accepted. It's shameful.

The civil case remains ongoing.