

Dear Council Members of Winston-Salem,

I am writing this letter as a Community Advocate and Concerned Citizen of Winston-Salem. I am calling for full transparency in the investigation of the murder of Julius Sampson, Jr.

I am concerned about the conflicting media statement made by Chief Catrina Thompson and the Facebook video captured Evaristo Amador Guerrero of the murder. The video shows the initial arrival of the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) Officers.

In order to have clarity, the WSPD must be fully transparent in its investigation. As a retired law enforcement officer, I understand that the investigation is active and on-going at this time.

The person that captured the shooter has not been interviewed by the WSPD. He is a retired state trooper. His wife called 911. No one from the WSPD has interviewed them. At the vigil, staff from the Olive Garden Restaurant stated that they observed the shooting, but no one questioned them. I directed them to contact the WSPD.

I am concerned about the delay in response time and arrival time of WSPD Officers. Did the shooting occur during WSPD shift change? If so, that policy needs to be reviewed if it caused the delay of response time. I am concerned about the staging time of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. BJs Restaurant staff advised that Mr. Sampson was still alive after the shooting. Could EMS have helped him? What does the 911 tape reveal? I am calling for the release of the body cam and 911 tapes of the incident.

I am concerned about the firearm round that was fired after WSPD Officers arrived on the scene. I heard the round in the video. I know the sound of a discharged weapon. It is heard in the Facebook video of Evaristo Amador Guerrero. Mr. Guerrero announced it during the video. Where did that round go? Thank God that round did not injure anyone. WSPD must be accountable for the discharge of the weapon.

I am concerned about the treatment of the gentleman that arrived on the scene that was taken to the ground by several officers. I was not there, but it appeared excessive.

I am concerned about the initial WSPD Corporal appearance upon exiting his patrol vehicle. I understand fully accessing the scene, but he did not appear to have any sense of urgency after the assessment to assist Mr. Sampson. The Corporal is seen placing his notepad in his pants pocket, while the shooter is struggling with the retired state trooper on the ground. Where is the Corporal's body cam video? Release the body cam video.

Again, I understand the investigation is in its preliminary stages. I am requesting full transparency. If mistakes were made, they need to be corrected. Our younger generation sees these problems. We want them to be engaged and active in our community. Let's be proactive in addressing these problems. We must give our people hope. We deserve it!

Sincerely,

Arnita M. Miles