

# NAACP NEWS

Tennessee State Conference  
Gloria J. Sweet-Love, President  
Jovante Mahone, Youth & College President



Deidre Malone, Press & Publicity Chair

## NAACP

### **Tennessee State Conference and the Memphis Branch Respond to Former Memphis Police Officers Charged with the Death of Tyre Nichols**

Tennessee State Conference NAACP President Gloria Sweet Love and Memphis Branch NAACP President Van Turner released the following statement regarding former Memphis police officers Desmond Mills, Demetrius Haley, Justice Smith, Emmitt Martin and Teddarius Bean being charged with second-degree murder:

Memphis Branch NAACP President Van Turner stated, "We are gratified to hear that the Shelby County District Attorney's Office charged five former officers with second-degree murder following the tragic and brutal death of Tyre Nichols. No one should be viciously beaten to death over an alleged traffic violation. The officers' actions were despicable, excessive, callous and unjustified. We hope that justice prevails."

Tennessee State Conference President Gloria Sweet Love stated, "Although we are pleased that the charges have been filed, we strongly urge the U.S. Department of Justice to continue its investigation. The accused former officers were reportedly members of the Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace in Our Neighborhoods ("SCORPION") Unit. The Memphis Police Department and its SCORPION Unit must be thoroughly investigated and monitored to ensure that all police officers abide by the law. We expect the police to enforce the law, not violate the law. We seek accountability and justice."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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