“…with liberty and justice for all.”

We are deeply, deeply troubled by the grand jury’s decision not to indict Daniel Pantaleo for the tragic death of Eric Garner. We will continue to press, alongside others who care about justice, to have the governor appoint a special prosecutor to re-consider this matter. Additionally, we will ask the Justice Department to press forward with a federal civil rights indictment against the officer and to look at and investigate the policies and practices of the NYPD, in particular the use of choke holds. We understand the anger that will flow from the failure of this City’s criminal justice system. That being said, we urge calm and we remain confident that, even while protests will take place, those protests will be within the bounds of the law and in the best American tradition. At the same time, we urge the NYPD to act appropriately in policing the protests so that there is no provocation on the part of the police to transform, by its actions, what is otherwise peaceful protest into something that no one wishes.

Hazel Dukes, President of the NAACP, New York State Conference, 1/25/14

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The New York grand jury’s failure to indict any officer for the killing of Eric Garner is yet more evidence that the lives of African Americans are devalued by too many of our fellow citizens nationwide. In the past decade, we have witnessed the rise of vigilante empowerment in the form of stand-your-ground and open carry laws, and we have seen ample evidence that the implementation of these policies work for the majority population at the expense of African American lives. The advent of widespread video recording devices has made it clear that black people die at the hands of police with a frightening regularity that suggests we as a community are confronted with a police power supported by an indifferent majority.

From the murder of Trayvon Martin and Renisha McBride by armed civilians to the police slayings of John Crawford III, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and numerous others, we find ourselves in need of protection from our fellow citizens and our government alike. In the tradition of our founder, Carter G. Woodson, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History will harness knowledge for the sake uplifting black life, making it sacred, and transforming America into the democracy it professes to be.

Daryl Michael Scott, National President, ASALH, 12/4/14
WHAT YOU MISSED...PPMO FASHION SHOW, S.I.S.T.E.R.S., TRIBUTE TO BLAK MEN, TALENTEO TENTH, MS. RONNIE’S RETIREMENT...

PPMO, ROYAL REIGN

S.I.S.T.E.R.S., TRIBUTE TO BLAK MEN

TALENTED TENTH – Dec 2014
MS. RONNIE’S RETIREMENT PARTY
CONGRATS TO DECEMBER GRADUATES, AND HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY BREAK!!!
PICTURED ABOVE – CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES STAFF [LEFT TO RIGHT]: Mr. Derrick Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator; Dr. LaVerne Gyant, Director; Dr. Joy Coates, Associate Director; and Ms. Regina Curry, S-Plan Coordinator (not pictured, Ms. Ronnie, Office Support Specialist)