



Mayor Jeffrey W. Hall
P.O. Box 71
Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

Chief of Police Ronney L. Howard
1000 Bolton Avenue
Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

Dear Mayor Hall and Chief of Police Howard,

The National Black Justice Coalition; the nation's leading civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+/Same Gender Loving (LGBTQ+/SGL) community, is writing to request an update on the investigation into the murder of McKinsley LaKeith Lincoln.

One year ago, on the morning of May 15, 2020, the family of McKinsley LaKeith Lincoln, an openly gay Black man, filed a missing person's report after he had been missing from his home for more than 24 hours. Within hours of filing the missing persons report, local news outlets reported that the Alexandria Police Department discovered the body of a "deceased male with a visible gunshot wound" that was later identified to be McKinsley Lincoln. Sadly, the Lincoln family was not contacted by the Alexandria Police Department and was forced to learn about the murder of their beloved family member through local media reports.

After working with the National Black Justice Coalition and civil rights attorneys Benjamin Crump and Jasmine Rand, as well as Louisiana State Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, Mayor Hall confirmed that the Alexandria Police Department has agreed to act diligently to investigate surrounding facts and circumstances and is investigating the murder of McKinsley Lincoln as a hate crime.

Since that announcement, the Lincoln family has received no updates from the Alexandria Police Department on the investigation into the murder of McKinsley and the possible hate crime charges associated with Lincoln's violent death.

As we approach the anniversary of McKinsley LaKeith Lincoln's murder, we write to you demanding an update into the investigation.

Lincoln's tragic killing was a reminder that hate crimes against Black LGBTQ and same gender loving people happen too frequently—often without the national public outcry that our heterosexual brothers and sisters receive.

In 2018 alone, [over 1,500 hate crimes](#) based on bias against someone's sexual orientation or gender identity were reported. And the violence is escalating. There was more than a 18 percent increase in these hate crimes from 2016 to 2018 and the FBI reports an 11 percent increase in anti-Black hate crimes during the same period.

Not one member of our beautifully diverse community should experience violence, discrimination, or be murdered as a result of who we are or how we show up in the world. Each of us has a role to play in ensuring that we create a strong and inclusive community.

We expected the Alexandria Police Department to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder of McKinsley Lincoln and are disappointed that one year later, the Alexandria Police Department has not lived up to its pledge to properly investigate McKinsley's murder and report its findings to the Lincoln Family and the public.

We respectfully ask that you, as Mayor and Chief of Police respectively, provide the Lincoln family and the Alexandria community with an update into the investigation and a clear timeline for when the investigation will conclude.

Thank you,

National Black Justice Coalition