



National Black Justice Coalition

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Dear Partner,

We hope you are doing well and staying safe during these trying times. We at the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) are reaching out to ask if you will help us raise awareness for Mikayla Miller. [Mikayla Miller](#) was a 16-year-old Black LGBTQ+ girl who was found dead on April 18, 2021, in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, only a day after she had been assaulted by 5 white teens (two of them young men). The state medical examiner has ruled her death a suicide but Mikayla's mother, Calvinia Strothers, along with activists and organizations, including NBJC and Ending Violence in Boston, believe that Mikayla was murdered.

We're writing to ensure that you are aware of what's happened to our sister Mikayla and hope you may consider using your platform to raise awareness for others.

Here are five things we know about the case that don't add up, highlight the need for accountability including the fact that Mikayla was assaulted less than 24 hours before she was found dead, and that lead us to believe this was not a suicide:

1. There is no way Mikayla could have killed herself. She was found standing upright (not hanging) with a belt tied around her neck, which was tied to a tree that is not tall or sturdy enough to withstand her body weight.
2. Five white teenagers are involved but have not been implicated. Mikayla was jumped by 5 white teenagers the night of April 17th at around 6:30pm ET. Mikayla's mother called the police to report this incident at or around 7:30 pm ET.
3. Curiously it was not until after public pressure from Calvinia and Monica Cannon-Grant (a local community leader) that records of Calvinia and Mikayla reporting the first incident was made public. The names or involvement of the white teenagers have not been included in any of the reporting to date, we do not believe they have been questioned or detailed.
4. Two of the five white teenagers have relationships with the local police department.
5. Calvinia has a prior case that was supposed to be dismissed. When she engaged the local police department, they used this case and assumed shame around Mikayla's sexual identity to suggest Calvinia not make a big deal about her daughter.

We are still fighting to figure out what happened to Mikayla and we would like for you to join us in raising awareness by sharing information about the case and asking for accountability for Mikayla Miller. [HERE](#) is a page with a folder that includes digital assets that can be shared across digital platforms.

Here is sample copy to support the ask as well:

Do you know what happened to Mikayla Miller? We demand #JusticeForMikayla
#JusticeForMikaylaMiller #BlackLGBTQLivesMatter #MikaylaMiller


There has been no accountability for the fact Mikayla Miller was jumped by 5 white teens before her death. We demand #JusticeForMikayla #JusticeForMikaylaMiller #BlackLGBTQLivesMatter #MikaylaMiller

There is no way Mikayla Miller could have killed herself. We demand to know what happened to her on April 18 #MikaylaMiller #JusticeForMikayla #JusticeForMikaylaMiller #BlackLGBTQLivesMatter

Police tried to use assumed shame around Mikayla's sexual identity to silence her mother Calvina from making a big deal about her daughter. We demand #JusticeForMikayla #JusticeForMikaylaMiller #BlackLGBTQLivesMatter #MikaylaMiller

Thank you for your advocacy and leadership and for considering this humble request,

In Love & Continued Struggle,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auriel". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive Director
National Black Justice Coalition