



# FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **“Resurrection For Justice” Campaign Florida State Conference NAACP Demands Justice, Seeks Impartial Investigation in 14-year-old’s Death**

(ORLANDO, FLORIDA) --- The Florida State Conference (FSC) NAACP is leading the effort to have the case of Martin Anderson thoroughly and impartially investigated under the FSC NAACP “Resurrection For Justice” campaign, which has assembled and organized many legal, civic, religious and community entities and spawned the exhuming and second medical examination of Andersons’ remains. The FSC NAACP has demanded justice while moving to ensure accountability for the actions of the Bay County Boot Camp officers which led to the Black 14-year-old’s untimely demise. Anderson was placed in the Boot Camp facility where he was beaten by officers and subsequently died at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. The death was ruled unrelated to the beating and listed as hemorrhaging caused by a medical condition known as sickle cell trait by the first medical examiner Charles Siebert.

The FSC NAACP led the effort to secure an independent examination through the services of renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden. Dr. Michael Baden, who also exhumed Medgar Evers and testified for the state of Mississippi against Byron De La Beckwith, is the former Chief Medical Examiner of New York City and is presently the chief forensic pathologist for the New York State Police. He has been a medical examiner for forty-five years and has performed more than 20,000 medico-legal autopsies. After Anderson’s remains are exhumed on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Vernard Adams will perform an autopsy for the state and Dr. Baden will perform the independent examination, after which two separate reports will be issued as to the true cause of death of the teenager.

The NAACP has held a number of meetings, a town hall forum and mobilized the state’s Panhandle area branches from Tallahassee to Pensacola. Governor Jeb Bush appointed Hillsborough State Attorney Mark A. Ober to review the evidence in the boy’s death. The FSC NAACP is gravely concerned about State Attorney Ober’s ability to investigate this case objectively based on past rulings, namely the case of Jennifer Porter. Ober was criticized for not filing the charge of vehicular homicide against Porter after she admitted she was the driver of a car involved in the hit-and-run that killed two Black children. Ober has been given one year to investigate the death by Gov. Bush. Concerned that as time passes so does the sense of urgency with regard to protecting the state’s children, FSC NAACP President Adora Obi Nweze has sought to lead the organization and inform the public as to the events surrounding this tragedy of justice. The NAACP will move to bring to light the independent, unprejudiced information surrounding the Martin Anderson case under the “Resurrection For Justice” campaign.

A mass service will be held on Friday March 10, 2006 in Panama City, Florida where the remains of Martin Anderson will be exhumed. On Monday, March 13, 2006, at 8:00 a.m., the FSC will mobilize the Hillsborough, Pinellas, St. Petersburg, Polk County, Haines City, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Winter Haven, Hernando County, Sarasota County, Desoto County, Lake County, Marion County, Orange County, Manatee and Pasco County Branches of the NAACP to conduct a mass gathering at the District 13 Medical Examiner’s Office in Tampa, Florida. Local, state, and national news affiliates will be present.

For more information, contact the Florida State Conference NAACP office at 407-843-5320.