

## Response to the Tragic Death of Tyre Nichols

As we bore witness to the horrifying video of the tragic and senseless death of Tyre Nichols, the Village of Harlem, and the communities of El Barrio, West Harlem and Washington Heights share our sincere condolences with his family and friends. He was more than just a son, a brother, and a friend, he was a human being, and unfortunately was treated less than that.

We are beyond asking the question of why this occurred, and we are beyond asking what more we can do to ensure police departments better train their officers, or better equip their officers with what they need in order to stay committed to protecting all our communities equally. We must now ask the question what level of justice is righteous enough to ensure the level of depravity shown in that video is never visited upon anyone else ever again.

That was not a moment of irritation with someone expressing discontent, that was pure violence which was later celebrated by those involved.

Punishment is meant to deter acts of harm and violence against the community, and the punishment must be swift and harsh to ensure deterrence. More importantly, it must be fair and equally applied no matter who commits the crime.

I join Tyre Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, in continued calls for peaceful demonstrations to not only show our frustration with an often-uneven justice system and pray that we can all seek the justice her son righteously deserves.

Inez E. Dickens

New York State Assembly

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