



**NEW BEDFORD BRANCH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF COLORED PEOPLE**

95 Cedar St. New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740 • 508-990-0746

—Chartered 1917— Historic Home of Frederick Douglass -Lewis Temple -Sgt. William H. Carney

October 14, 2020

Maura Healey, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: NAACP New Bedford Branch Calling for a Special Investigation in the Murder Malcolm Gracia

Dear Attorney General Healey:

The NAACP New Bedford Branch urges your office to investigate the killing of Malcom Gracia in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 2012. Today, eight years later, this killing haunt our community and puts a pall over community-police relations. We believe an investigation will bring to light many facts that have not been given serious consideration by the police and the District Attorney. Your non-partisan, independent investigation will either discover that Mr. Gracia was indeed murdered by police officers or, in any event, put the issue to rest.

In recent presentations by Mr. Gracia's family's attorney, Don Brisson, it was revealed that many facts that had not been previously given due consideration. With compelling evidence of mishandled forensics; overly friendly interrogation of the accused police officers; an assistant DA who failed to gather critical evidence; mishandled forensics; the DA's final report riddled with factual errors and implausible assumptions; a gag order on medical records of the police officer who claimed to have been stabbed and; New Bedford's half-million-dollar settlement with the Gracia family, it is clear that justice was the second casualty in this case.

Citizens are still calling for the prosecution of officers Trevor Sylvia and Paul Fonseca, and discipline for filing false police reports by officers Tyson Barnes, David Brown, Paul Fonseca, Brian Safioleas, and Trevor Sylvia. Mr. Brisson's presentations cast a disturbing light on the New Bedford Police, the District Attorney's office, and the Mayor himself in the wake of Malcolm Gracia's shooting. We think there's enough substance in Brisson's presentations to at least warrant and independent investigation. We join with others in our community calling for re-opening the case.

We would appreciate a speedy response to our request. The Gracia family and the New Bedford community have waited long enough for justice. We are confident that your investigation will lead to a resolution of the issue. I can be reached by email at president@naacpnewbedford.org or via our office number (508) 990-0746.

Respectfully,

LaSella L. Hall

LaSella L. Hall, Ph.D.
NAACP New Bedford Branch President