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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515**

**SHONTEL M. BROWN**

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July 1, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-001

Dear Attorney General Garland:

Early Tuesday morning, June 28, 2022, a young African American man was killed by gunfire from eight City of Akron police officers. An investigation is reportedly underway, and the officers have been placed on administrative leave with pay. I am asking that the Department of Justice monitor the investigation, review its findings once complete, and make recommendations as the DOJ deems appropriate.

Summarizing reports of the incident, I understand the following thus far, but note that body camera footage has not yet been released.

A traffic infraction led to a high-speed chase of a car driven by Jayland Walker, ending when Mr. Walker exited the vehicle. According to police, the victim made threatening gestures, and eight officers opened fire. Reportedly, 90 rounds were fired, resulting in 60 gunshot wounds to Mr. Walker. It also has been reported that Mr. Walker was unarmed when he exited the car, and the police handcuffed him although he was already deceased.

The tragedy of Mr. Walker's death calls to mind many incidents over the years when African Americans have been the victims of excessive force resulting in death. As a result, the public trust in America's law enforcement to protect and serve has been immeasurably eroded. It is imperative the communities in Northeast Ohio are assured that a full and fair investigation will be conducted that accurately portrays the facts and makes findings consistent with those facts.

If my constituents know that the Department of Justice is actively monitoring the investigation and will review its results, it will help assure them that no stone will be left unturned, and fairness and justice will be at the forefront of all related activities.

I thank you in advance on behalf of the people of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio and look forward to a response to my request for DOJ monitoring, review, and recommendations related to the investigation of the killing of Jayland Walker.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress

cc:     The Honorable Kristen Clarke, AUSA, Civil Rights Division  
          The Honorable Bridget M. Brennan, Acting U. S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio  
          Eric B. Smith, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Cleveland Field Office  
          The Honorable Sherrod C. Brown, U. S. Senate  
          The Honorable Robert J. Portman, U. S. Senate  
          The Honorable R. Michael DeWine, Governor, State of Ohio  
          The Honorable Daniel Horrigan, Mayor, City of Akron