

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Asian American Community in More Than 30 Cities Nationwide to Rally for Justice for ex-NYPD Officer Peter Liang**

Columbus, Ohio, February 18, 2016 -- On February 20, 2016, more than 100,000 people from over 30 major cities across the U.S. are forming a coalition to rally to show condolences to Akai Gurley and his family, and to demand justice for Peter Liang, a former NYPD officer. These cities include Columbus, New York, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Denver, Houston, Dallas, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Miami, among others.

Akai Gurley's death was a tragedy which broke the hearts of his bereaved family and the African American community. Our hearts are with them. In the meantime, we are equally saddened and deeply concerned by the selective and unjust prosecution of Officer Liang, who was made a scapegoat of the systematic derelict of NYPD and the incapability to seriously address the long-standing distrust and tension between the minority community and the law enforcement forces.

Peter Liang, a young man full of aspirations to serve the country and to help make New York City a better and safer place as a law enforcement officer, was deployed to patrol one of the most dangerous areas without adequate training, experience and support. Evidences tell that the shooting of Akai Gurley was a tragical accident that was not the intention of Liang. On Nov. 20, 2014, Liang and another rookie officer, Sean Landau, were conducting vertical patrol at the NYCHA-run Louis H. Pink Houses in a pitch-dark stairwell when Mr. Liang's gun accidentally discharged. The bullet ricocheted off the wall and struck Akai Gurley, who happened to have entered the stairwell about one floor below.

Mr. Liang was convicted of second-degree manslaughter on Feb. 11th, 2016 and may face a sentence of up to 15 years.

The coalition is saddened by the tragic loss of the life of an innocent civilian and expresses the deepest condolences to Mr. Gurley's family. At the same time, the coalition strongly believes that Scapegoating Liang is not the correct way to resolve the systematic problem beneath the surface, and violates the equal justice spirit of this great country.

"A gun accidentally being discharged by an officer who has drawn the gun because he felt he was threatened... he was walking in a dark hallway, with a gun in one hand and a flashlight in the other, I don't see a criminal act," commented New York State Assemblyman William Colton, "But I do see the possibility of a criminal act in having stairways being unlit for weeks and months."

"I think Peter Liang got caught in politics," Lou Telano, President of New York Veteran Police Association, said, "There is an anti-police sentiment created by the current administration and special interest groups. He's a pawn. He's a scapegoat."

The coalition believes that Mr. Liang has been sacrificed as a scapegoat to divert the attention on the fundamental problems of NYPD. It is high time for NYPD to be held accountable and reform, and to show restraints and respect to all the communities. This coalition demands true justice for Mr. Liang and justice for all.

**Our assembly starts from 11am, Saturday 2/20 at GPS location: 40.051721, -82.910511 (Southeast of Easton Town Center).**

**We will then march on public sidewalk towards Morse Road intersecting with Easton Loop.**

**Silent protest will happen on both sides of Morse road (the Easton side and the Walmart side) on sidewalks.**

**We ask media to come to Morse Road rally location at noon.**

For more information, visit: <http://justiceparade.org/>

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Thank you and best regards,

<http://justiceparade.org/>

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