



October 27, 2020

We are pleased to learn that Colonel Reeves is retiring from Louisiana State Police. Along with activists, advocates, organizers, and countless community members, we have been calling for new leadership within the LSP organization, and look forward with anticipation of what is to come.

However, we are disappointed that despite Colonel Reeves' persistent mortal failings, he is allowed to retire with his full tax-payer funded pension and benefits, and without discipline. LSP is responsible for the investigation of officer-involved shootings and cases of the most egregious uses of excessive force across various agencies, yet they rarely, if ever, actually recommend discipline for officers' wrongful conduct, no matter how heinous. Instead, they permissively condone this bad behavior by allowing them to walk free—with a badge and a gun—to endanger the public and continually strip the people of our most sacred rights to life, liberty, and property.

These failed investigations, like that of the Josef Richardson case, only work to erode trust between law enforcement and citizens of Louisiana, and allow bullies with badges to abuse the communities they are sworn to serve and protect. In the case of Ronald Greene, this massive failing of leadership reached new heights when Trooper Chris Hollingsworth admittedly beat Mr. Greene until he “was spitting blood everywhere” and “went limp.” The murder was subsequently covered up by LSP and Mr. Greene's family was deceptively told he died in a car crash. It was not until public pressure around his death mounted more than a year later that the truth came out, which means that either Colonel Reeves knew of this conspiracy to protect the troopers involved in Mr. Greene's murder and allowed it to continue, or that his own troopers did not respect him enough to tell him what really happened. Either way, despite Governor Edward's statement that he was the “model of professionalism,” it is glaringly obvious that Colonel Reeves had no business in leadership of the most prestigious law enforcement agency in our great state.

It is imperative that the governor allow for full transparency in his appointment of Colonel Reeves' replacement. We ask that Governor Edwards not only seek input from law enforcement and the legislature, but also from his constituents, organizers, and leaders who have their ears to the ground and fingers on the pulse of our communities, even if they don't have a title in front of their names. We hope he listens to a diverse collective of opinions and acts with the highest levels of integrity as he conducts this search. Most importantly, whomever he chooses *must* have a comprehensive, practical plan on handling cases of police violence and excessive force. Gone are the days of sweeping these atrocious acts under the rug; we need leadership that will hold them to the light and bring them to account. And we will accept nothing less.

Yours in Justice,

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Attorneys for the family of Ronald Greene