

Governor Phil Murphy

Joint Statement by Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Oliver on the Release of Video Footage in the Investigation of the Death of Tyre Nichols

01/27/2023

"We are horrified by the video footage released earlier today that showed Memphis police officers brutally and inhumanely beating Tyre Nichols.

"When those sworn to uphold the law violate the rights of those they serve, there must be accountability. While we are gratified that the officers involved were immediately relieved of duty and swiftly charged for their roles in Tyre's death, that does not reverse the injustice that was done. Tyre should be alive today.

"All Americans deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity by law enforcement, particularly Black Americans, who for far too long have received disparate treatment by our criminal justice system. Although the vast majority of police officers serve honorably, there are a select few who abuse their positions of power and unjustly tarnish the reputation of a profession dedicated to protecting the public.

"In New Jersey, we have enacted meaningful police reforms, including revamping use-of-force standards, ensuring independent investigations in police-involved shootings, requiring all officers to wear body cameras, and allowing for the decertification of officers who commit serious misconduct. And we are committed to deepening this work.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to Tyre's family along with our hopes for justice and accountability."

Governor Phil Murphy

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