

Candlelight Vigil Commemorating Anniversary of the Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. on Thursday, November 19 from 6:30-7:30 PM at White Plains Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2015

WHAT: Candlelight vigil and speak-out to mark the fourth anniversary of the fatal shooting of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. by White Plains police officers

WHEN: Thursday, November 19 from 6:30-7:30 PM

WHERE: White Plains Department of Public Safety, 77 South Lexington Ave., White Plains, NY

CONTACT: Rev. Doris K. Dalton, Convener, Westchester Coalition for Police Reform, [\(914\) 949-6555](tel:9149496555)

WHITE PLAINS, NY – A candlelight vigil will be held Thursday, November 19 from 6:30-7:30 PM outside the White Plains Department of Public Safety (77 South Lexington Ave., White Plains) to observe the four-year anniversary of the killing of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. by White Plains police officers. The evening will include words from community members, religious leaders and the family members of individuals killed by police.

A 68-year-old, African-American, former-Marine and 20-year veteran of the Westchester County Department of Corrections, Chamberlain was killed by White Plains police officers in the early hours of November 19, 2011, inside his home in the nearby Winbrook Public Housing complex. Chamberlain had inadvertently triggered his Life Aid medical alert necklace, which he wore for a chronic heart condition, causing officers to respond. Despite Chamberlain's assurances that he did not require assistance, officers broke down his front door, tased him and shot him dead. Chamberlain's Life Aid device captured an audio recording of the incident, including officers swearing at Chamberlain repeatedly and calling him racial slurs.

A grand jury failed to indict any of the police officers involved, and Chamberlain's family has brought a civil lawsuit against the City of White Plains and the White Plains Police Department seeking monetary damages as well as policy changes to prevent future tragedies. Chamberlain's family and others have also petitioned the U.S. Department of Justice to charge the offending officers with violations of federal civil rights law.

The Westchester Coalition for Police Reform (WCPR), one of the event's sponsors, came together in the wake of the tragic shooting. The coalition includes social justice organizations, religious institutions and community members committed to policy reforms that will promote the adoption of best practices by law enforcement agencies and limit police misconduct. For information, contact WCPR at (914) 949-6555.

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