



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greensboro, North Carolina – Religious leaders, concerned citizens, and community organizations are calling for the public release of the footage that shows the police shooting of Chieu Di Thi Vo in 2014. These groups demand that city council vote to release the video publicly. The vote will take place at 1:30 pm on Monday May 9 at the Melvin Municipal Building in Greensboro.

In a letter to the city council on Sunday May 8th, the Vo family stated, “We believe that the public has the right to view footage from former officer Bloch”. After watching the footage, the family also expressed that they have many unanswered questions “After viewing the video with our own eyes, we strongly believe that what we saw and heard simply do not match with the GPD's initial assessment of what happened.”

Leaders, residents, and groups are standing behind the family and pushing for city council members to release the footage publicly. Many of these supporters also stood behind the family with raised fists moments after the Vo family viewed the footage for the first time a week ago at the city council meeting. At this meeting, the family entered the chamber and communicated through their attorney that they were upset and disappointed at what the footage revealed, and that their desire was to publicly release the footage. Subsequently, Mayor Pro Tem Yvonne Johnson tried to call a vote to release the video from Vo's death to the public but no other council members supported it. Neither the Mayor nor any of the City Council members acknowledged the family's presence at the meeting, including Chieu Di's 78-year-old mother, who sat quietly in the front row.

Among groups supporting the family is the Southeast Asian Coalition (SEAC), a grassroots organization which provided the family access to pro-bono legal counsel, and has been

organizing locally around this issue. SEAC executive director, Cat Bao Le, stated “Police body cameras are one of the few accountability measures existent for communities of color that are heavily militarized. In North Carolina, these cameras have been introduced as a tool to increase the dwindling trust between people and law enforcement. Yet they serve next to nothing if they are not accessible to the public, and only released when police chiefs deem they should be.”

Adamou Mohammad, chair of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) also expressed support, "It is unacceptable that the Vo family had to wait years to see the footage, but more unacceptable if the city council does not move on their request to release this footage publicly. The IAC supports the Vo family's request to release this video, and we hope the city council will vote to do so on Monday".

Many community organizations are standing by the family’s request to release the footage publicly, including: International Advisory Committee, the Southeast Asian Coalition, Beloved Community Center, Seeking Justice Consortium, The Tribe, CLTQPOC.

For the Vo family statement released 5/8/2016 [click here](#).

For view the national petition launched today, [click here](#).

To the API National organizational support letter, [click here](#).

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