

**Statement of Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.**  
**May 17, 2007**

My public announcement yesterday of a \$1,000 reward fund established by a group of small businesses located in my aldermanic district to help catch the killer of four-year-old Jasmine Owens included a statement that I need to address.

While attending a vigil for Jasmine and her family last night, I had a conversation with members of the family of the 26-year-old who also was shot in the drive-by shooting that took Jasmine's life. Understandably, emotions are running extremely high right now, and it has come to my attention that the statement I made yesterday regarding the 26-year-old has created further tension and prompted death threats against him – even while he is being held in police custody. I certainly did not intend for my comments to trigger that reaction, and my main objective remains helping find the person responsible for taking Jasmine's life.

Until more details surface regarding the 26-year-old man's involvement, I urge any individuals influenced by my previous comments to hold off judgment.

Also, today on my radio talk show (860 AM, WNOV) I made similar remarks, urging people to reserve judgment, and I also asked concerned community members to please refrain from making any more inflammatory comments that may trigger threats of violence towards the 26-year-old male. I encourage the media to frame my comments in their appropriate, intended context so that they aren't misconstrued, and it's always helpful if they can post the full text (or a pdf file) of what is released somewhere on their web site so it's there for anyone and everyone to read.

Finally, I would like to thank the numerous individuals who came out last night to support Jasmine's family in their time of bereavement.

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