

MOMS OF BLACK BOYS UNITED, INC. AND M.O.B.B. UNITED FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, INC. MARK FIVE YEARS IN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POLICING REFORM



Edited by Naomi Richard VILLAGER Entertainment Reporter

(M.O.B.B.) - Five years ago, on July 7, 2016, a concerned mother of two Black sons gave birth to twin organizations: Moms of Black Boys United, Inc. (M.O.B.B. United) and M.O.B.B. United for Social Change, Inc. **Depelsha Thomas McGruder** founded these nonprofits in the wake of the brutal police killings of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and many others who came before them. Fed up, frustrated and filled with despair, she took to her computer to do something about it. A heart-felt social media post began a journey for McGruder and a dedicated cohort of moms that led to the formation of M.O.B.B. United; two organizations dedicated to influencing policies and perceptions that impact how Black boys and men are viewed and treated by law enforcement and other authority figures.

This year, moms of Black sons around the world exhaled at the same time as Hennepin County District Judge Peter Cahill sentenced former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin to 22.5 years in prison for the murder of son, brother, father, and friend, George Floyd.

"We shared a collective sigh of relief when we finally saw some semblance of justice and accountability," said McGruder, a former TV executive who started M.O.B.B. United as a Facebook support group. "But it would be naive and foolish for us to assume that accountability in one case will



Stacey Abrams and M.O.B.B. United Founder Depelsha McGruder in Washington DC.

lead to a permanent shift. Our work is far from done."

In a show of force, M.O.B.B. United members are advocating for the passage of policies and legislation that will increase accountability for law enforcement, including the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280). Honoring his life and all of the lives murdered by the hands of those meant to protect and serve requires vigilance.

"M.O.B.B. United is encouraging community members to contact their U.S. Senators and demand passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act," stressed McGruder, noting the National Academy of Sciences data point that Black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police. "Future generations are counting on us." M.O.B.B. United's key initiatives are designed to support moms working to change perceptions of Black boys and men, and bring an end to racial profiling and discrimination. Training and empowering moms to become effective advocates while raising their voices collectively nationwide is another principal area of focus.

There is strength in numbers. That's why this vocal online community of more than 170,000 is

rallying moms and allies across the nation to join in the organization's daily work toward equity and justice for Black boys and men. In recognition of its fifth anniversary milestone, M.O.B.B. United is launching its "Invite 5 Moms" campaign to encourage members and others to help increase frontline support, and expand the organization's impact.

"It's a critical moment for the organization as we complete our

fifth year and continue the fight of our lives," emphasized McGruder. "We won't stop until society sees our Black boys and men through the lens of humanity and with the dignity and respect they deserve."

To learn more about M.O.B.B. United's 5th "MOBBiversary" activities throughout the month of July, key priorities, ongoing initiatives and support its critical work, please visit us at www.mobblined.org.

Florida man planned to blame BLM for ex-girlfriend and her family's deaths

by Biba Adams | The GRIO

(GRIO) - A 51-year-old Florida man planned to have his 22-year-old ex-girlfriend, her sister and her brother-in-law killed and then pin the murders on Black Lives Matter protesters.

Daniel Slater of Palm Beach hired a hitman to carry out the crimes but was foiled when the individual turned out to be an undercover FBI agent.

According to The Washington Post, the plot conspired between May and June 2020 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and while protests following the Minneapolis murder of George Floyd were taking place across the country.

Slater pleaded guilty this week to murder-for-hire in a deal that meant two other murder-for-hire and three drug charges

against him were dropped. He is expected to be sentenced to the maximum penalty for his crimes: 10 years in prison.

It was another woman's death that started an investigation into Slater. A 26-year-old woman who was acquainted with the man was found dead in Miami's Everglades National Park in February 2020. Court documents reveal that Slater wanted Brianna Slabaugh to kidnap and kill his ex-girlfriend, Brianna Kane, but Slabaugh died from an accidental drug overdose before completing the murders.

The investigation into her death led them to another person who knew of Slater's plot and cooperated with the FBI. Reportedly, Slater is a drug dealer who attempted to have Kane kidnapped and wanted her teeth knocked out, nose broken and acid to be thrown in her face, according to the report.

The informant drove with Slater to his ex-girlfriend's home, where he detailed the plot, down to the idea of spray painting "Black Lives Matter" on the house to pin the slayings on area activists.

"Slater pointed out a window in the home, explained how [the sister] and her [husband] sat in their living room at specific times, and told the [associate] to shoot the victims through the window during one of those times," according to the complaint.

According to CBS Tampa, Slater, currently in the Broward County Jail, is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 16.

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Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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