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**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION BY
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REVISIONS TO SAN DIEGO POLICE
DEPARTMENT POLICY**

SAN DIEGO, CA – On Friday, March 15, 2019, District Attorney (DA) Summer Stephan held a press conference and released a video that shows the events that led to the in-custody death of Aleah Jenkins. The DA stated that the actions of the officer did not rise to the level of criminal negligence and that an ordinary lack of judgment and carelessness are not criminal negligence.

“It was very heart-wrenching to hear Ms. Jenkins asking for help and water for over an hour after vomiting and no assistance was rendered. The treatment displayed in the video further supports the need to reform our policing policies,” said Councilmember Monica Montgomery.

“I am deeply troubled about the treatment of Ms. Jenkins while in custody. The video clearly indicates a decline in her wellbeing. We must all strive to do better to respect the basic human rights of everyone in custody,” said Council President Georgette Gómez.

Based on the information provided during the press conference, the DA report, and the content of the video, there are even more questions regarding Ms. Jenkins’ treatment during this tragic interaction. In light of this information we have determined to formally request that the State of California’s Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General conduct an independent investigation. Furthermore, we call on the San Diego Police Department to revise its Paramedic and Emergency Treatment Policy.

From the beginning, there has been community outcry about the way the Aleah Jenkins’ case has been handled. Last week, Councilmember Montgomery released a statement on the protest at the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PSLN) regarding the in-custody death of Ms. Jenkins. On March 14, 2019, a subsequent letter was sent calling on DA Stephan to release all camera footage.

Our offices will continue to work closely with the community and will work to implement the police accountability measures outlined in the PSLN Committee’s workplan.

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