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NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM OPERATION NEGRO EQUALITY (ONE)
ON THE POLICE SHOOTING OF
CYNTHIA SCOTT AND KENNETH EVANS

It is important that mounting community concern relative to the police shootings of Cynthia Scott and Kenneth Evans be viewed in the right context.

Negro organizations decrying the unnecessary and brutal shooting of Miss Scott is not to be interpreted as a general indictment of the entire police department. The interest of these groups, as well as the interest of persons and groups criticizing the shooting of Evans, is for the full administration of justice.

It is the opinion of many people that justice was flagrantly abused in Wayne County Prosecutor Samuel Olsen's perfunctory investigation and immediate exoneration of the officers involved in the separate shooting incidents. Several months ago, Prosecutor Olsen clarified the use of firearms by police. His clarification, as stated at that time, is inconsistent with his hasty decisions to clear the officers of any possible wrong in the shootings.

Fatally shooting a woman and an 18-year old youngster in the back, when their identity is known to the officers, is a very serious act---one that should be questioned and challenged by the whole community.

STATEMENT FROM OPERATION NEGRO EQUALITY (ONE)

Our police officers are the administrators of justice... yet they are not immune to violating the principles and laws of justice. When these violations are as seemingly obvious as they are in the Cynthia Scott and Kenneth Evans cases, we think the offenders should be dealt with accordingly.

Officers who are reckless or use poor judgment in the use of firearms are more dangerous to the welfare of a community than a woman of ill-repute and a juvenile delinquent. Operation Negro Equality (ONE) joins these other community and professional organizations in demanding FULL JUSTICE in the police shooting of Cynthia Scott and Kenneth Evans.

Operation Negro Equality is comprised of more than thirty community organizations in the Detroit area.