



**MONDAY:**

## **African Methodist Episcopal Church Pastors respond to House police reform bill**

*Black clergy call on MA House of Representatives to match the Senate or go further*

MEDIA ADVISORY

July 19, 2020

CONTACTS:

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BOSTON – Pastors from the twelve A.M.E. churches across the Commonwealth representing over 4000 members in Massachusetts (the oldest continuously existing Black denomination in the country), will respond to the Massachusetts House of Representatives police reform bill and call on them to pass strong police reform, including fixing qualified immunity, limiting use of force, and the creating a POST system, at a press conference **Monday, July 20** at the **Massachusetts State House**.

In the wake of the most recent police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many other unarmed Black people, and against a backdrop of generations of racialized police violence and unjust treatment, pastors in the A.M.E. Church, on behalf of their respective congregations, are calling on the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass a comprehensive racial justice and police reform bill like the Senate passed (S2820).

The pastors and their congregations are also supporting the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus' 10 Point Plan as well as other important reforms to create strong use of force standards, strict limits on qualified immunity, a ban on government use of face surveillance technology, and ensure police accountability. Many of the congregations include members from

some of Massachusetts' most overpoliced communities who know the injustice and indignity of aggressive and racially biased policing.

**WHO:** *Rev. Jocelyn Hart Lovelace*, Presiding Elder - Boston-Hartford District of A.M.E. Church  
*Rev. Barbara Simmons*, Pastor Bethel A.M.E. Church Plymouth, MA  
*Rev. Bernadette Hickman-Maynard*, Pastor Bethel A.M.E. Church Lynn, MA  
*Rev. Marcus McCullough*, Pastor Bethel A.M.E. Church Springfield, MA  
*Rev. Janine Dailey*, Pastor Bethel A.M.E. Church Lowell, MA  
*Rev. Darryl Malden*, Pastor Bethel A.M.E. Church Fall River, MA

**WHEN:** Monday, July 20, 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Massachusetts State House, front steps  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA

**\*Reporters unable to attend in-person can watch the press conference on Facebook Live at**  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1271744749846521/>

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