

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMAGE DISSEMINATION FOR
THE CITY OF JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Effective immediately, the City of Jackson will no longer provide mugshots of persons engaged in officer-involved shootings. Mugshots and sensationalized news narratives create lasting impressions that adversely impact communities and widen the historical divides between police and community. The injustice of this practice was eloquently captured in the “If they gunned me down” award-winning social media campaign initiated after the tragic police shooting of Mike Brown in 2014. A mug shot is just one snapshot in time, and cannot be presumed to represent the sum total of any individual’s existence. Removing the visual dehumanization that occurs when mug shots are used will be the first step we as a city take to engage in a truthful and honest conversation on violent crime.

We recognize the complexity of being part of a police force in a city with Jackson’s demographics. Communities of color have always had complex relationships with law enforcement. In the context of Jackson, a city whose population and police force are majority black, the conversation around police-involved shootings is dominantly interpreted using national trends around violence. However, that interpretation does not necessarily reflect policing in Jackson. Jackson’s people and its police force have a unique relationship that is underscored by our connections to each other as human beings and our commitment to making Jackson a better place. We owe it to ourselves to shift the paradigm around violence and crime, while simultaneously engaging in building relationships, examining, updating and creating policies that allow us to humanize individuals and foster systemic transformation.

As a city that has taken a chance on a progressive agenda, I urge us all to invest our energies and resources into examining crime, working across cultural divides and producing solutions that will mitigate violence and uphold the dignity of all. My hope is that we as citizens, members functioning in various capacities in areas of public safety, social service organizations, cultural organizations, religious organizations, businesses and political spaces can come together with the unified purpose of fighting crime to make Jackson a safe destination for all.