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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Occupy Milwaukee: The People Demand Justice for Derek Williams & Family

Occupy Milwaukee is writing this communication in regard to the Derek Williams inquest. We are disappointed in Special Prosecutor John Franke's decision to not seek felony unintentional homicide charges against officers directly involved in the death of Derek Williams while in police custody. Even if their actions did not directly cause physical harm to Mr. Williams, their failure to heed his pleas for help were just as much to blame.

The assertion that it is impossible to determine whether Mr. Williams life could have been saved by medical intervention earlier in the incident is nothing short of appalling, especially in light of the fact that other testimony aside from those connected to MPD suggests that Williams was yelling that he could not breathe before he was even put into the squad car. It seems that there is too much conflicting testimony, thus too many unanswered questions. This being the case, it is not acceptable to take felony charges off the table. In light of this development we call for a continuation of actions in protest to the death of Derek Williams in police custody, and the Milwaukee Police Department in general. We call for the following demands to be met as well, and strongly encourage the community to spring into action under these demands:

1. We demand that the officers be convicted and punished under the full extent of the penalties allowed by the charges.
2. We demand that a full federal investigation into MPD and all cases of deaths in custody and brutality be initiated, and that the investigation is completely accessible to the public by whatever means necessary.
3. We demand that the officers are fired regardless of the outcome of the trial. The testimony of the inquest clearly shows that the officers acted in an unprofessional and negligent manner and therefore must lose their jobs just like any other employee that fails to do their job in the manner required of them.
4. There must be an investigation into whether or not Derek Williams' civil rights were violated.
5. There must be more civilian oversight into MPD.

Occupy Milwaukee will continue to denounce MPD and continue actions against the MPD until these demands are met. Occupy Milwaukee also stands by the Williams family through their ordeal. The salaries of MPD officers are paid by The People, therefore MPD is accountable to The People.

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