

NEWS ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ashley Smith

Victim's Sister

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Event video: <https://youtu.be/Ber5ZfUMarE>

#Justice4Sheldy #JusticeForSheldy

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Draco.Life

April 16th, 2020

D.R.A.C.O. Organizes #Virtual Protest Against Promoting Violent Detroit Police Corporal

Detroit, MI – Members of the victim's family, and community organizers are outraged by arbitrator George Roumell's claim that Detroit Police Corporal Dewayne Jones should be promoted to Sergeant, and are resolved to hold a virtual protest at the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) meeting this afternoon (**April 16th, 2020**). The protest will include statements during the "Oral Communication" portion of the meeting. Dewayne Jones was convicted of assault on March 19th 2019 in the August 2018 beating Detroit Receiving Emergency Room patient Sheldy Smith.

Smith's sister Ashley has produced a [video](#) to promote the protest. In it she said,

My name is Ashley and I am the sister of the victim in this video. I am a Central Michigan University graduate and a disabled U.S. Army vet. Please join D.R.A.C.O. (Detroit Residents Advancing Civilian Oversight), my family, and the residents of Detroit in a virtual protest against the promotion of convicted criminal, Detroit Police Corporal Dewayne Jones.

At their April 9th meeting Detroit Police Department (DPD) attorney Grant Ha announced the decision by appointed arbitrator George Roumell to promote Corporal Dewayne Jones to the rank of Sergeant. Roumell sent the message to Ha by email, but a Ha said he expected a formal letter to follow. On January 16th the BOPC voted unanimously to reject the promotion. The Detroit City Charter says all promotions must be approved by the BOPC.

Boman, founder of Detroit Residents Advancing Civilian Oversight ([DRACO](#)) said,

We must make it clear that we don't recognize any effort by anyone to usurp the Board's final authority on promotions. It is their duty to instruct the DPD to refrain from this promotion, and to instead, dismiss this bad apple from the company of Detroit's finest. This may be challenged in court. Insubordinate elements in the DPD may try to defy the Board. It is their duty to take on court challenges and dismiss insubordinates.

The meeting (and thereby the protest) will be via the Zoom meeting app at:

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/397380647?pwd=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBRGJlY1kwWVNjdz09>

By telephone, call one of these numbers:

1 (929) 436-2866, 1 (312) 626-6799, 1 (346) 248-7799,

1 (301) 715-8592, 1 (669) 900-6833, 1 (253) 215-8782

Enter the BOPC Meeting ID 397380647 and press ##

The virtual meeting will use a form for public comments:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d26fa38cc5e94a018836d065000714ce>

Link to agenda: <https://draco4life.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/agendaapril-16-2020.pdf>

News Release By Detroit Residents Advancing Civilian Oversight DRACO.Life.