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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2023

### **RESPONSE TO POLICE SHOOTING OF NICKOLAS “NICK” DE JESUS ACOSTA AND RELEASE OF MANIPULATED VIDEO FOOTAGE BY POLICE On Behalf of the Family of Nickolas De Jesus Acosta**

The release of manipulated video footage on social media by the Roswell Police Department (“RPD”), purporting to depict officer body camera footage of the police shooting of Nickolas “Nick” De Jesus Acosta by RPD officers on January 6, 2023 compels his family to come forward to issue this unified response.

Nick’s mother, Maria De Lourdes Rodriguez, and the mother of his child, Amelia Ponce, are eyewitnesses to this shooting that occurred in the front yard of their family home. They are clearly visible in the footage released by RPD. Their trauma and grief is compounded by this release that occurred without warning or consent. Most tellingly, the footage reveals *officers shot Nick approximately thirty-three (33) seconds after initiating the encounter with him*. The knife in Nick’s hand points downwards and is held by his side at ease throughout the encounter. Nick doesn’t threaten the officers. He doesn’t brandish the knife in any direction. His words and body language don’t seem to convey danger they show he’s dumbfounded by the rapid escalation of this encounter by law enforcement. The last words uttered by him are: “Do you really want to go home tonight after killing a twenty-year-old?” The officers respond to Nick’s question with multiple shots to his chest and torso killing him.

Nick’s family eagerly await the day they can publicly speak their truth which notably won’t be manipulated to sway public opinion or posted to a social media site like mere gossip. They’re confident this truth provides much needed context that’s lacking in the footage released thus far. The family is unified, unwavering and deeply committed to holding those responsible for Nick’s death accountable to the fullest extent of the law using every legal avenue available to them. The family demands RPD immediately release all of the footage in its possession of the police encounter instead of carefully selected clips pieced together in an attempt to deflect the truth. Police footage captured after the shooting will depict officers handcuffing Nick, failing to administer first aid to him and forcibly preventing his family from rendering first aid as well. The family will pursue criminal charges against the officers involved and requests they be publicly identified by the department so they are more easily held to account. Nick’s family is thankful for the compassion, encouragement, love and support that has been shown to them thus far by their local community and invite the public to join them for a silent protest/candlelight vigil demanding justice for Nickolas on Saturday, January 28 at 6pm on the front lawn of the Chaves County District Courthouse located at 400 N. Virginia Ave., Roswell, NM.

If you would like more information about this topic please contact me at:

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Recent photographs of Nickolas "Nick" De Jesus Acosta for your use and convenience:

