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## Bond denied for ex-cop on murder charge in black man's death

By Bruce Smith

CHARLESTON (AP) - A judge denied bail Monday for a white former South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist, saying his release would "constitute an unreasonable danger to the community."

In a brief order, Circuit Judge Clifton Newman denied bail for Michael Slager.

"After careful consideration of all the evidence presented and the nature and the circumstances of the offense, the court finds that the release of (the) defendant would constitute an unreasonable danger to the community and a request for release on bond should be denied," it says. The former North Charleston officer has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest on murder charges in the April 4 shooting death of Walter Scott.

A bystander's cellphone video showed Slager firing eight times as Scott tried to run from a traffic stop. The incident inflamed the national debate about how blacks are treated by law officers.

Prosecution and defense attorneys sparred over the case and question during a hearing Thursday and met again to discuss the case Friday.

"Today isn't cause for celebration. There are no winners or losers when one man has lost his life at the hands of another," Scott's brother Anthony Scott said Monday in a statement released to the news media. He said he has confidence in the judicial system.

"Our family respects the judge's decision to deny bond for Michael Slager. We trust in God and our prayer is that nothing like this never happens again to any family, anywhere," he added.

A statement released by Andy Savage and other members of Slager's defense team said "we share Michael's disappointment in today's court decision but remain firm-convinced that following a review of all the evidence, many of Michael's peers will find that he was free of any criminal intent in his actions."

The prosecutor, Scarlett Wilson, did not respond to a request for comment.

Wilson on Thursday had called Slager "a firing squad executioner" and said he planted evidence, taking his rifle from where it fell and dropping it near Scott's body hundreds of feet away.

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## Charlotte police, barbers meet for first time since trial

CHARLOTTE (AP) - Charlotte-Mecklenburg police and the North Carolina Local Barbers Association have scheduled their first meeting since a mistrial was declared in the case of a white police officer accused in the shooting death of an unarmed black man.

The two groups are set to host the eighth "Cops and Barbers" town hall event on Sunday. The gatherings give the African-American community a chance to learn their rights and the appropriate conduct when coming in contact with police.

In addition, the community learns the appropriate behavior for officers when engaging with the public.

It's the first gathering since a mistrial was declared last month in the case of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer Randall Kerrick, who was accused of voluntary manslaughter in the 2013 death of Jonathan Ferrell.

## Historical marker to commemorate African-American school

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will commemorate a historic African-American school in Courtland.

The marker will be formally dedicated on Saturday and open to the public.

The marker will be located alongside Courtland Community Center in Courtland.

Speakers during the event will include Maxine Nowlin, president of the Courtland Community Center.

The historical marker says Courtland School was constructed between 1928 and 1929 at a cost of \$4,000.

The Courtland School historical marker was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources during its quarterly meeting in March.



President Barack Obama meets 4-year-old Malik Hall during departure photos with Malik's uncle, Maurice Owens, center, in the Oval Office, Sept. 4, 2015. Also pictured, from right, Owens's sister Ayesha Hall, his mother Chauvet Wells and his brother Derrick Harpe. Kayah Hall, Owens's 2-year-old niece, is hidden behind Ms. Wells. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## Plan would bring Martin Luther King Jr. statue to Montgomery

By Angela Tuck

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - Statues of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis can be found on the grounds of the Alabama Capitol. A few blocks over, there's a park dedicated to Rosa Parks, and a Freedom Riders museum occupies the old Greyhound bus station.

But there's no monument here for the man who led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, one of the nation's most significant protest movements. Members of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church - the church the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once pastored - want to change that. And they hope to do it by Dec. 1, the 60th anniversary of the bus boycott, which was led by King.

"Oftentimes when you are in a city and you're involved in the movement yourself, you are a lot more modest than others," said the Rev. Cromwell Handy, pastor of Dexter Avenue church. "Sometimes it gets by us the significance of the contributions that have been made to the world."

Church and community leaders have a plan, a sculptor - Ronald Scott McDowell, who teaches at nearby Tuskegee University - and the support of local politicians. What's needed now is \$250,000 to complete the project envisioned in 2008 by longtime Atlanta resident Evelyn G. Lowery, the late wife of the Rev. Joseph Lowery.

The statue will be placed in the courtyard of the Legacy Center, Dexter Avenue's fellowship hall and office complex, which sits next to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Thousands of visitors come to the tiny church every year. On some Sundays, visitors from Canada, the Netherlands and other countries outnumber the members in attendance. The church has become a popular place of worship for family reunion groups, who come by the hundreds.

A statue would be a fitting tribute to King, as well as the foot soldiers who ignited the movement, Handy said. An inscription at its base will honor the ordinary people who took part in the boycott, men and women who organized car pools and walked for miles instead of riding segregated buses.

The boycott began Dec. 1, 1955, and lasted until Dec. 20, 1956. A federal judge in Montgomery ruled that the city's bus segregation laws were unconstitutional. A few months later, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld that decision.

"What's important to me is that the whole history of Alabama is not being told without that monument," Handy said. "You don't have anything that points you to the leadership. We have all kinds of monuments to the Civil War leaders and we have markers around the city where different things took place, but we don't have the level of recognition that is memorialized in the form of the statue."

Evelyn Lowery, who died at her Atlanta home in 2013, commissioned the statue in her role as chairwoman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Women.



President Barack Obama talks with Duke University Blue Devils men's basketball players, from right, Quinn Cook, Tyus Jones, Matt Jones and Grayson Allen during a greet with the team, coaches and University leadership prior to an event to honor the team and their 2015 NCAA Championship victory, in the Blue Room of the White House, Sept. 8, 2015. Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, background, watches the exchange. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)