

McLean Citizens Association



The Voice of McLean for Over 100 Years

McLean Citizens Association Resolution

Bijan Ghaisar

November 6, 2019

DRAFT

Whereas, the U.S. Park Police (Park Police) shot and killed an unarmed McLean area resident two years ago, in November 2017 – Bijan Ghaisar, 25 years old, who grew up in McLean and returned after college to work for his father as an accountant; and

Whereas, Mr. Ghaisar was driving southbound on the George Washington Parkway when his sport utility vehicle was hit from behind in a minor fender-bender accident; Mr. Ghaisar, the victim, drove away from the accident; Park Police officers located and followed Mr. Ghaisar's car down the Parkway; and Mr. Ghaisar stopped his car twice on the Parkway but drove off as Park Police approached his car with their guns drawn; and

Whereas, when Mr. Ghaisar stopped at an intersection in the Fort Hunt area of Fairfax County, Park Police again approached Mr. Ghaisar's car with their guns drawn and fired nine times into his car, as he sat unarmed, striking him in the head four times and killing him; and

Whereas, immediately thereafter the Park Police transferred responsibility for investigating the shooting to the FBI, with oversight from the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department; and

Whereas, last year, one year after the shooting, the McLean Citizens Association urged the Park Police and the FBI to disclose promptly findings from their investigation, including an explanation of why the shooting took place; and

Whereas, now, two years after the shooting, the Park Service and FBI have disclosed little information about the shooting despite numerous requests from Mr. Ghaisar's family, elected representatives in the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, state and local government representatives, the Washington Post, and our community; and

Whereas, transparency and accountability, by the Park Police and FBI are critical to achieving and maintaining the trust, confidence and cooperation of the communities they serve, particularly in a case of this nature, where the events themselves and the subsequent failure to disclose seem to make little sense; and

Whereas, Bijan Ghaisar was a lifetime member of our community – a child, a friend, a neighbor, an employee; he was one of us.

Now, therefore be it resolved that, with the passage of two years since the shooting, the McLean Citizens Association urges the Park Police and the FBI to disclose urgently the findings from their investigation, in the interest of transparency and accountability to our community.

Approved by the MCA Board of Directors

Date

McLean Citizens Association, P.O. Box 273, McLean, Virginia 22101

cc: