**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 19, 2022**

**News Conference: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 5:00 pm, front of City County Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**FAMILY OF PETER SPENCER RELEASES PHOTOS OF BODY TO SHED LIGHT ON NECESSITY FOR OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT IN HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION**

The family of Peter Spencer has retained attorney Paul Jubas to oversee their investigation into Mr. Spencer’s shocking homicide. On December 12, 2021, Peter Spencer, a Jamaican immigrant from Pittsburgh with a love for the outdoors, was dropped off by his fiancé for a day at a campsite in Rockland Township, Venango County, PA with at least one friend and others unknown. Later that evening, Peter was fatally shot nine (9) times, including multiple gunshots to his back. Drugs, alcohol, and numerous firearms were recovered from the scene. Four (4) individuals were detained at the scene, yet, amazingly, all four (4) were released.

 Serious concerns as to the propriety of the investigation have surfaced. Specifically, the Venango Co. Coroner may have made public misrepresentations regarding the number of shots to Peter’s back. On December 31, 2021, the Coroner stated that Peter was shot, “once in the mouth, twice in his buttocks, and **six times in the chest and abdomen**.”

 After patient consideration, the family has chosen to release photos of Peter’s body so that the People can see for themselves why there are grave concerns as to the complete lack of transparency and overall propriety of this investigation. **These photos appear to indicate that there were *at least* four (4) shots to Peter’s back (two shots to buttocks not shown).** The family also holds serious concern as to the nature of the gunshot into Peter’s mouth, which caused minor damage to his bottom lip, and exited through the back of his neck, below and behind his right ear.

 The family’s medical examiner, Dr. Cyril Wecht, cannot come to a legal conclusion regarding the gunshot wounds until he receives all photos and other pertinent information from the Venango Co. Coroner. Therefore, this is not a formal legal position regarding the gunshot wounds – this is simply an initial impression after viewing the photos that are available. Although a thorough review of all pertinent evidence is required, the family believes that these photos are cause for serious concern as to the propriety of Venango County’s homicide investigation.

 **As such, the family of Peter Spencer makes the following DEMANDS:**

1. **Venango Co. Coroner must immediately turn over all photos and other pertinent information to Dr. Cyril Wecht;**
2. **FBI/Department of Justice must get involved in this investigation and provide some transparency for Mr. Spencer’s family;**
3. **Venango Co. DA must refer the case to Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro out of an abundance of caution to avoid the appearance of impropriety.**