

Greetings Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor for me to be before you to give this testimony. My name is Clarence D. Castile. I am the uncle of Philando Castile. I'm not here to talk solely about Phil. But to give testimony that what happened to him, should not happen to others.

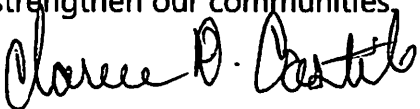
I'd like to share a little bit about myself. As they say, "I am so St. Paul." I grew up in the St. Paul Community. I have lived in the Midway, greater Frogtown area for close to 50 years. I am a proud graduate of the St. Paul Central Class of 1978. I have worked for St. Paul Public Works, Regional Water, Sewer Department, the REC Center and most recently, served as a St. Paul Reserve Police Officer.

One day, I received a call from Former Police Commissioner John Harrington asking me if I would be interested in joining the Microgrants Lights On Foundation's Board of Directors. I After he explained to me what Lights On was all about, I jumped at the opportunity! I knew that with complete certainty that this cause was the one I had been waiting for. I learned that the Lights On program was inspired by an incident on July 6, 2016, that changed my life, and my family's lives forever. John explained to me that the inspiration behind the Lights On Program came from an incident involving the St. Anthony Police that took the life of my nephew. It was a program created as a way to try to right a terrible tragedy that never should have happened.

The program Lights On is something that makes me want to give my all because of it's potential for impacting a lot of people in our community. There are many foundational elements of the program that has the restorative, repairing and revitalizing components. The rebuilding of trust between Law Enforcement and the community that is so greatly needed.

I am here today to ask you to support this program, believe in this program, really get behind this program. It's a wonderful program that has the potential to impact so many futures. To prevent another tragedy like the one that happened to Phil. The Lights On program has become an important part of our Public Safety Program. It provides a positive path for low-income drivers. It is a way to make driving safe on the streets of our neighborhoods. It is a program that will help reduce tension between Law Enforcement and residents. And it provides an excellent use of community resources.

Today, my plea is that you take a hard look at the Lights On program. Look at the work we are doing in our communities. I ask that you see the positive impact this program has to make in the communities in which we work and live. I ask you to vote yes, yes yes on this bill. Let's come together on this and say yes! We can do this. Together, we can pass this bill that will strengthen our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clarence D. Castile". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thank you.

Clarence D. Castile