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Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker – Statement on Second-Degree Murder Charge for Jason Lewis in Karon Blake’s Killing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC – In response to the second-degree murder charge of Jason Lewis, DC resident and Department of Parks and Recreation employee, in the killing of 13-year-old Karon Blake, Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker released the following statement:

“The Blake family deserves justice, and now we are one step closer to holding Karon’s killer accountable.”

“I continue to have serious questions about the handling of this case. It took almost one month to press charges, during which the Ward 5 community was given few answers, allowing misinformation and speculation to spread. Community members understandably have questions about whether justice would have come swifter if Karon’s background and circumstances were different, or if Jason Lewis was not an employee of the District of Columbia. In addition, the Metropolitan Police Department must account for the perceived preferential treatment provided to Jason Lewis in this case.”

“Our community is not satisfied simply to have an individual charged. The call to build a truly safe and healthy community remains. Transparency, accountability, and expeditious action are vital going forward. I am asking the Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Attorney’s Office to share more information with the public and be forthright about their handling of this case. Many questions remain about the events surrounding Karon’s killing and the subsequent investigation. This is resonant with ongoing concerns about the Department’s closure rate on cases and overall effectiveness in protecting and serving the District. We need to have this conversation for residents rightly concerned about public safety.”

“Ward 5 neighbors have inspired and encouraged me in this time of waiting for accountability. They’ve remained steadfast in their calls for justice, and in the commitment to caring for the Blake family in their profound loss. And truly, it is the District’s loss. Karon should still be here. This charge and subsequent trial will not bring him back to us. Despite this, we will continue to care for one another, and demand this same care from our leaders for all residents, regardless of zip code or background. May Karon’s memory cultivate in each of us a renewed fidelity to justice and restoration.”