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**PUBLIC SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE PRINCESS BLANDING
ANNOUNCES RUN FOR VIRGINIA GOVERNOR IN 2021**

***Liberation Party Candidate to Prioritize Community Care, Public Safety, Equity and
Inclusion for Black and Marginalized Communities***

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 29, 2020 --- Today, Princess Blanding officially [announced](#) her bid for the 2021 Virginia gubernatorial race under the newly-established Liberation Party. The mission of the Liberation Party and Blanding's platform is to elevate the voices, priorities, and needs of the people to build a diverse, inclusive, and liberated Virginia for all.

"When you know better, you do better," said Blanding. "The fight has moved from the streets and city government, to the state legislature where progressive change is imperative. Our time is now to create a future in which all Virginians see their values reflected in their leaders."

On May 14, 2018, Blanding's brother, Marcus-David Peters, was murdered by a Richmond police officer while unarmed, undressed and experiencing a mental health crisis. Peters, an alumnus of Virginia Commonwealth University, was a talented biology teacher at Essex High School in Tappahannock, Virginia, where Blanding served as assistant principal.

In the wake of her brother's death, Blanding founded [Justice and Reformation](#), a leading advocacy organization for mental health care, public safety and the protection of the most vulnerable communities from police violence. Throughout 2020 Blanding worked closely with prominent members of the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates to propose legislation like the "Marcus Alert" bill that puts community care and safety first.

"This last year has shown how powerful voices and demands for policy change become watered down legislation. Addressing these issues and trying to work within the channels of local and state government has only further proven the need to dismantle the two-party system to truly elevate the voices and needs of the people," said Keenan Angel, Vice Chair of Candidate Endorsement for the Liberation Party. "Our platform is dynamic and speaks to the moment. Prioritizing community, public safety, racial and economic justice is long overdue in the Commonwealth."

About Princess Blanding

Princess Blanding grew up in Newburgh, New York and has been a resident of Virginia since 2004. Now based in the Middle Peninsula region of Virginia, she is a veteran educator and the proud single mother of three daughters: Zakara, Tionna, and Leah. Blanding's upbringing and family life instilled the importance of family, education, and a strong work ethic.

An educator for over 13 years here in the Commonwealth and a grassroots activist, she has a history of fighting to elevate the voices and concerns of every day, working-class Virginians and for increased accountability from our local and state elected officials to address the inequities in our Black and most marginalized communities. Her fearless advocacy has, and always will, prioritize the needs of everyday people.

About the Liberation Party

The Liberation Party is an independent party that rebuilds and establishes communities by creating generational wealth, dismantling racist systems, fostering sociocultural enlightenment, and claiming our rightful political positions to ensure Black Liberation.

Our mission: Advance equity by uplifting communities that have been traditionally and systemically oppressed and underserved. We stand for thriving in communities where holistic needs are met and generational wealth sustains high-quality healthcare and educational systems. Suitable housing and economic prosperity are not privileges, rather guaranteed human rights. Black culture and individualism is openly celebrated free from oppressive, racist systems and achieved liberation for Black People is liberation for all people.

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“Liberation is a human right, not a privilege.”

To learn more about the campaign and donate to the cause, please visit princessblanding.com

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