

For Immediate Release

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On Tuesday, June 23rd the Board of Free Spirit Media released the following statement:

"On Monday, June 22nd, the Board of Directors of Free Spirt Media was made aware of a series of allegations concerning its Executive Director Jeff McCarter. We take these accusations extremely seriously and are compelled to act on them. As people who are keenly aware of the harm that has been caused to Black people, women and others by the simple fact of allegation, we are committed to a full hearing of the issues presented.

Free Spirit Media was created and exists to empower and amplify the voices of youth creators – particularly youth who, because of their race, have historically been hushed. At this critical moment in our city and nation, when Free Spirit Media's participants' voices are so needed, we will not allow this matter to deter or defer our work.

Thus, in the interest of the greater goals of the organization and the necessity of moving forward while allegations against Executive Director McCarter are examined and evaluated, we will continue to operate our full program. Mr. McCarter has been placed on administrative leave and an Acting Director will be appointed to keep the organization moving forward during these turbulent, but defining, times.

Sincerely,

Stacey Bolton Chairman of the Board of Directors"