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## PRESS STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Representative Garnet Coleman on New Sandra Bland Evidence

AUSTIN, TX – On Monday, May 6th, 2019, WFAA in Dallas released footage from Sandra Bland's cell phone from the day of her arrest.

Representative Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) released the following statement:

*"It is troubling that a crucial piece of evidence was withheld from Sandra Bland's family and legal team in their pursuit of justice. The illegal withholding of evidence by one side from the other destroys our legal system's ability to produce fair and just outcomes. As Chair of the House Committee on County Affairs that looked into the death of Sandra Bland, I will make sure that the Committee will also look into how this happened.*

*I am glad to see that the Sandra Bland Act is already making a difference in terms of better training for jailers and new officers. Additionally, through new data reporting requirements regarding traffic stops, the Act has already helped push local reforms and key legislative policies forward such as House Bill 2754 by Representative White, of which I am a Joint-Author of, that prevents arrests for non-jailable offenses. HB 2754's policy was part of the original Sandra Bland Act as filed last session. I am proud that the Act has had a positive impact and will continue to make a difference in the future."*

Representative Coleman is available for comment

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