

Reverend Jackson said he doesn't owe you an apology, and that you should not have asked him to make an apology. What is your response?

Is this about Jesse Jackson? Is this about Ronnie Musgrove? No – This is about a family in Kokomo, MS that is hurting. We owe them a full investigation of the case, and the professionals at the Department of Public Safety have done their job. Local and national officials are continuing their investigations, and we will assist them as needed. If any lead, if any evidence, if anything is brought forward that would provide further information on this investigation, we will pursue it to the fullest extent.

Has the state been too quick to judge the situation and do you feel that the State has done everything they can do in this case?

We know the Johnson family is hurting because of the loss of Raynard, and our hearts and prayers are with them. This family deserves a full, complete investigation as does every citizen in the State of Mississippi. Not only does every citizen of this state deserve that, but those people who are outside the borders of our state deserve to know that we treat all citizens fairly and justly and the opportunities that our state offers are opportunities that are afforded and offered to everyone.

Every one of the 2.7 million people of Mississippi deserve to know that they have fair and equal opportunity to succeed in our state. Every citizen is entitled to know that they deserve a justice system that is fair and works for them. That is created not by anything that anyone else does or has done, it is created by what we do today with the circumstances we have in front of us. We owe that to the Raynard Johnson family and we owe that to every citizen of the state of MS as well. If you stop and think about it, you realize that Kokomo, MS and Pope, MS or anywhere else, have concerns and they have needs that must be addressed if we are going to make a difference economically in our state. We are one state. – We are one community. – We are one people. – And, we have one future, and that future is together. It is all of us working together to make this state the kind of state that we want. And it is when we send that signal and that message beyond the borders of our state. That is when we put the infrastructure together and when we put the marketing of our state together, and we can make a difference economically in our state.

Jesse Jackson and others have said that you were too quick to react with the state's findings. What is your response?

We held our press conference Wednesday to update the media on the status of State of Mississippi's investigation and to introduce Dr. Michael Baden's findings in the case. As I have said over and over, we will assist local and national agencies as needed. If any lead, if any evidence, if anything is brought forward that would further information on this investigation, we will pursue it to the fullest extent.

Did Reverend Jackson help get you elected?

Reverend Jackson was supportive of me during the campaign, and came to Mississippi to register voters across our state.

Are you and Mike Moore at odds over this issue? Yes. I have thanked the Attorney General for being available to our investigators so that in the event that this investigation does turn into a prosecution, everyone will be ready to work in cooperation with one another.

Are you and Mike Moore friends? Yes.