

POLICE STATE

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So that these crimes we *all* embrace
the victim & the violate
the duppy & the gunman
so close on these plantations still
so intimate
the dead/undead

—Kamau Brathwaite. *Trench Town Rock*

Introduction

Witness accounts of state brutality have always been a powerful force in the fight for liberty. What can poetry offer? Only what it has to give. Feeling & craft. Accents, rhythms. The lyric's sensual intelligence; the serial poem's repetition of singularities. Whatever traditions / innovations are attributed to literature at the moment.

In late August, 2014, as bearing witness to Michael Brown's murder became a national concern, I felt a sympathetic rage, a desire to *do* something, say *something*, join in somehow. I wondered if poetry could provide a counter-witness. Drawing from on-line databases & activist reports, I compiled a list of people of color killed by police, security officers or vigilantes during these eighteen months. I ignored the reports of people who were 'merely' wounded, the reports of whites, hispanics, asian & east-asian victims. Even within these parameters, I record less than a third of the known killings. This is not an accurate or complete chronology. It leaves out far more than it includes & more incidents will come to light as the movement grows.

The poems begin the day after Trayvon Martin was killed & end the day Michael Brown died. These dates are arbitrary, save for their political significance, which is everything. But also nothing, until they cease. Brown was killed on the ninth. On the 10th, in Dallas, an off-duty officer killed Andrew Gaynier, who was unarmed. On the 11th, the LAPD killed Ezell Ford, who was unarmed. That same day, in Salt Lake City, Dillon Taylor, unarmed, was killed by police as he exited a 7/11. His headphones, they concluded, prevented him from hearing their commands.

The poems are transcripts pieced into narratives. Few of their words & none of their scenes are "mine." I relied on Google searches. Having compiled my list, I searched for accounts of each death; most searches generated several "hits": ten or fifteen on average. Most reports were generated by local TV stations. The crime beat is hardly as relentless as the state itself, but local personalities "reporting live from the scene" still generate the majority of footage. There is also much redundancy in the web; often a single report—issued by the police—repeats & structure the narratives of other sites. I approached all accounts equally, sometimes relying on "in-depth" & "investigative" reports, other times on court documents, anonymous blog posts, & obituaries. The people also shape the web. The attention a story receives frequently depends upon activism initiated by the victim's family & friends. Local press attends some of these rallies. Sometimes they file "follow-ups," as investigations or lawsuits force them to reconsider initial reports.

Watching the videos, reading the reports, sorting through various responses, I used the words of reporters, public officials, witnesses & mourners to reconstruct these killings in as much detail as possible. My first order of business was to condense & clarify—to get the facts, such as they were—straight. But how to 'straighten out' scenes of confusion, fear, aggression, cowardice? & to what end? I noticed that official reports shared a narrative. They were stories about the police, not their victims. This version begins with a call to 911, ends with a department spokesman calling it "regrettable" but "inevitable." I hope to have flipped this script by reconstructing narratives that focused on the target—the one whose life, being over, mattered. For this one, the outcome was never inevitable.

In a conversation with the hosts of IMIXWHATILIKE (October 2014), Frank B. Wilderson, III argues that "the collective unconscious is not ready to accept that Blacks are Human." This attitude, conditioned in police academies into a set of muscular responses, animates cop bodies, resulting in an outcome that exceeds intention. This "inevitable conclusion" emerges when these condensed

transcriptions of state reports are read side by side. We saw the reaction-formation that filters out a few weeks ago, when Brian Encinia decides it's not okay for Sandra Bland to be "a little irritated" by the stop. Compliance means compiling to his whims, as though only one body in this dialogue had the right to feelings. Anti-black psychosis takes many forms. A father, chopping onions, answers the door with knife in hand; a football star hails the police after a car crash; a would-be suicide, performing his despair—just shoot me!—meets a hundred rounds. According to these laws, "resisting arrest" includes raising one's hands, running, reaching for a phone or wallet, refusing to stop or lay down. The police are reactionary in all senses of the word. They react to direct threats: shots fired, someone who really does "lunge." But they seem to believe that their entrance upon the scene produces no effects. This is one reason why claims to curb "excessive" force fall short. The cops show up as victims-in-advance. They can be aggressors; some of them go out of their way to make something happen. More often they follow protocol, performing fear.

When I began, only a few databases were available. More have emerged, & are being compiled. I encourage readers, especially when they sense that I've gotten it wrong, to review the evidence. Here are the most important databases:

Fatal Police Taserings

<https://fatalpolicetaserings.wordpress.com/>

Killed by Police

<http://www.killedbypolice.net/kbp2013.html>

Operation Ghetto Storm

<http://www.operationghettostorm.org/>

Unarmed People of Color Killed by Police, 1999-2014

<http://gawker.com/unarmed-people-of-color-killed-by-police-1999-2014-1666672349>

US Police Shootings Database

<http://us-police-shootings-database.silk.co/>

We Charge Genocide: UN Shadow Report

<http://report.wechargegenocide.org/people.html>

Wikipedia List of killings by law enforcement officers in the United States

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_killings_by_law_enforcement_officers_in_the_United_States

I owe a tremendous debt to Brian Holmes for his collaboration. In the spring & summer of 2015, Brian built "Watersheds," an on-line, interactive map of police killings within the Mississippi watershed. His project, which argues that "Political ecology begins when we say 'Black Lives Matter,'" features some of these poems, as well as information about killings I haven't included. You will find "Watershed's" at <http://midwestcompass.org/watersheds/map.html> & Brian's introduction to the project at <http://midwestcompass.org/political-ecology-begins-when-we-say-black-lives-matter/>.

TRAYVON MARTIN

February 5, 1995 - February 26, 2012

March 1, 2012
Dayton, Ohio

Dante Price, age 25, parked outside the apartment where his children lived in the Summit Square complex: rows of prefab “townhomes” clad in brick & white siding.

It was his turn to babysit that evening; he'd arrived early, waiting in the car when he was approached by Ranger security guards Justin Wissinger & Christopher Tarbert.

Guns drawn
one grabbed Dante or his car
& ordered him to exit the vehicle.
He fled instead.

“He was fighting my partner, doing everything he could to pull off.” Wissinger & Tarbert fired a fusillade—17 rounds—hitting Dante 3 times.

The car
leaped forward, burst into flames.
The guards alleged to have said
“let the ~~nigger~~ burn.”

In the 911 recording, one tells a dispatcher
“We just had to shoot at him.
He charged at us,” while the other
is heard still yelling at Dante
to get out of his car.

The guards were not arrested. On April 19, a Grand Jury agreed to hear the case; on July 12 the jury charged Wissinger & Tarbert with one count of murder & one count of abduction; both pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter & the abduction charge. The Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office dropped the murder charges.

March 3, 2012
Slinger, Wisconsin

Bo Morrison, aged 20, studied carpentry at Milwaukee Tech, managed to score a job at Menard's. On the first Saturday of March, Bo attended a garage party at Tim & Juliet Hess's house on Kettle Moraine Drive.

Hess's daughter Karen played host. "The reason of that party was a celebration of our friends, of our life. We weren't trying to cause any harm" she later said. About twenty college kids showed up.

The house next door was owned by Adam Kind a brick mason, hunter & sportsman. A little before 1:00 am, Kind walked to his neighbor's drive & spoke to someone inside a car, telling them to turn the music down. He returned home to call the cops.

At 1:05am, two police cruisers arrived; the driveway was empty, the garage closed. Observing beer cans & smelling weed the officers saw the lights go out & heard voices inside the garage.

They called Juliet Hess at her place of work & she gave verbal consent for them to enter the garage. But the door was locked & the officers sensed that people inside were pushing down on the door. They knocked; no one answered.

After 40 minutes, the squads withdrew one parking at a restaurant across the street the other in a lot behind the Hess residence. At 1:50 an officer called Kind who thanked them for trying & promised to provide a formal complaint. They phoned Mrs. Hess a second time. She awoken her husband, who'd been asleep

in the house connected to the garage.

Hess went back out to the garage
kicked the door & told those inside to get out—
the police had the place surrounded, he said.

Everyone left, including Bo
who, fearing arrest, sneaked out back
seeking refuge in Kind's back porch.

According to Kind, he returned to bed
& spoke to his wife when a noise
from the back of his house aroused him.

He feared retaliation for calling the police.
He got a Colt .45 from his closet, loaded it
& went downstairs.

The front door locked
he went through the kitchen to the rear porch
where he found Bo crouching
between refrigerator & dresser.

“Who are you?” Kind asked, firing
a single shot—through the heart & lung.

The 911 recording that was released to the public was edited. Excised was recording of Kind yelling, “stupid fucking kid!” According to his lawyer, Craig Mastantuono, “Calling [the] cops back was not an option [my client] felt was reasonable. He felt it was going on right now.” D.A. Mark Bensen agreed, finding that Kind was justified under Wisconsin's new “castle doctrine” law. The law allows homeowners facing imminent danger to their lives to protect themselves using deadly force. “Under a reasonable view of the evidence the homeowner acted reasonably in his use of force based on the facts & circumstances,” Bensen said. The bill's lead sponsor, state Rep. Dean Kaufert, (R-Neenah), said a homeowner in such a frightening situation should not have to worry about being prosecuted. “The law was meant so you wouldn't have to second-guess yourself — that if you felt threatened you could take action,” he said. Mastantuono adds, “All the factors to prove self-defense under the old law were present” as well. Bo's mother said that Kind “took one bullet & killed my son. But he also killed six others — his father, me & his brothers & sisters. He wiped out an entire family, in no time.” Kind had applied for a concealed-carry permit but didn't receive it until after the shooting.

March 7, 2012
New Orleans, Louisiana

Wendell Allen, 20, oldest of eleven was a high-school basketball star. "He was my everything. He was my superstar" his mother, Natasha said. At Frederick Douglass averaging 21 points per game, he landed a spot *The Times-Picayune's* All-Metro team.

Upon graduation, Wendell tried Navarro College a day's drive away in Corsicar Texas but, missing his family, came home & found a job at Richard's Disposal: *community focused, environmentally friendly* their logo.

A teenager named Troy Deemer told cops that Wendell's brother, Davin sold pot. Officer Michael Voltolina observed exchanges between Deemer & others in the driveway; it was assumed (not proven) that marijuana was exchanged for cash.

On the first Wednesday in March NOPD's 3rd District narcotics unit rammed in the front door of their house.

Riot-gearred officers entered the living room where Wendell's sister, Jazmine watched TV. Officer Joshua Colclough & several others

ascended the staircase. Wendell, just home from pickup basketball, shirt off & hands empty came out of Davin's upstairs room;

Colclough shot him through the lungs & heart.

"All of this happened in an instant," Colclough's attorney, Claude Kelly, told the court. "It was a grievous mistake that he made, but it was a split second. In that split second, he made a decision, a dreadful decision, that a lot people will live with for the rest of their lives." A grand jury indicted Colclough with manslaughter after he failed to appear in court to enter a guilty plea for negligent homicide; District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro pursued a charge of second-degree murder but was unable to secure it. Colclough was sentenced to four years.

March 7, 2012
Newburgh, New York

At 22, Michael Lembhard had accumulated a number of outstanding warrants: for threatening his girlfriend with a knife & four “bench warrants” for failure to appear.

11:30 pm.

Michael's rolling near home in a Chevy Tahoe when members of the CNPD's anti-crime unit patrolling Liberty Street in an unmarked SUV pull him to the curb.

Michael takes off pursued on foot by Officers Brandon Rola & Eric Henderson, who follow him home.

Henderson kicked in the front door; the first floor was a single room: part kitchen, part living quarters. Michael was in the kitchen. He engaged in a physical struggle with Henderson, who wrestled him down.

Henderson & Rola, on top of Michael now pulled his hands out from under him when Rola yelled “knife!”

Both officers released him & stepped back weapons drawn. Michael scrambled into the living area, stopping ten feet before Officer Cardinale, who'd entered from the front.

All three point guns at him: “drop the knife!” Michael said he would use it to kill himself & that they might as well shoot him instead.

Michael held the knife to his throat. Officer Giudice entered. He held a taser but didn't fire it.

“Fuck it!”

Michael screamed. He motioned toward Cardinale who fired eight times. Henderson fired eight: thirteen rounds into the head & chest.

The Orange County Grand Jury found Henderson & Cardinale justified in using deadly force. D.A. Phillips concluded that “No criminal charges will be filed.” A few days later, Michael's sister Cherry interrupted a news conference. “You all are murderers,” she said. “You all murdered my brother in my living room.” Governor Andrew Cuomo denied requests for a special prosecutor to investigate. On July 17 at a city council meeting, relatives, & supporters turned out in high numbers. Michael's family claimed that Newburgh police had taunted them. When Michael's older brother, Gosford, stated “Solve the problem before we solve it for you!” shouting reached a peak & the meeting was ended by the Mayor. On Aug. 27 members of the memorial service threw rocks & bricks at the police. Three of Michael's brothers—Calvin, Donald & Basil—were arrested.

March 15, 2012
Rochdale, New York

Shereese Francis, age 30, was diagnosed with schizophrenia, her condition well-controlled by medication. When she refused to take her pills her family called the EMTs, who would bring her to Queens General, where doctors could convince her to return to her regime.

On the night in question her sister Shauna called 311, to ask if an ambulance could transport Shereese to a better hospital in Long Island. She was told to take it up with the EMTs, then transferred to a 911 dispatcher who promised an ambulance.

Shauna traveled the short distance from her place to the small house where her sister lived with their mother, Eleen. The police arrived first. Assuming the ambulance was on its way, Shauna led four officers inside; Eleen explained Shereese was in her basement bedroom.

They wrestled Shereese face down on the bed all four piling on as they put the cuffs on. Eleen could see Shereese struggling to breathe.

The EMTs were unable to revive her. She was pronounced dead at Jamaica Hospital: “compression asphyxia.”

The death certificate listed Shereese's death as a homicide. Her father, George Francis, stated, “The bottom line is, they come there & kill her.” Paul Browne, spokesman for the NYPD, said that “the Internal Affairs Bureau's investigation of the allegation to date has found nothing to support the claim that the woman was suffocated.” He argues that the Jamaica Hospital physician’s finding was “that heart failure was the cause of death” & that there was “no indication of trauma.”

**March 25, 2012
Pasadena, California**

At 19, Kendrec Lavelle McDade had been something of a star on Azusa High's football team. A corner back & running back who averaged 8 points a game. In the fall of 2009, against the Gabrielino Eagles he caught a punt, broke loose up the middle & zig-zagged 70 yards to cash it in. After graduating in 2010 he attended Citrus College hoping to become a lawyer.

Around 11 p.m., Kendrec & a younger friend were walking past a taco truck parked outside Arturo's Restaurant, near the liquor stores & auto shops at the corner of Orange Grove & Summit Ave.

They approached Oscar Carrillo, who was at the truck & asked him to buy them food. When he refused the younger man snagged a laptop in a backpack from his nearby car. Both took off running west on Orange Grove. Carrillo called 911. He described their clothes & a shiny silver handgun—
“Do you remember anything about the gun?” the dispatcher asked.
“Both had a gun, man,” Carrillo said.
“They both?”

“They both ran away from me.”

“So both had a gun?”

“Yes, I know.”
Carrillo replied.

Officers
Jeffrey Newlen & Matthew Griffin

spotted Kendrec, who split
away from his friend
turning north on Sunset Ave.
Newlen followed on foot
Griffin, in the car, tried
to box him in. He removed
his weapon from his holster
with his right hand
steering with his left.
The D.A. report states
that Kendrec “turned
into the street, heading directly
at Griffin.”

“He left the sidewalk
& he's running at me,”
Griffin said. “This ... this
scares the crap out of me...
He's still clutching his waistband...
I'm stuck in the car.
I got nowhere to go.”

Griffin fired four times
through the driver's side window.
Newlen, some 10 feet back
heard the shots & fired
four or five more rounds.
No gun was ever found.

Carrillo later recanted, admitting he'd invented the gun to get the officers to respond more quickly. Kendrec's accomplice was arrested without incident & charged with the murder, under the legal argument that he committed a felony that resulted in McDade's death. The D.A.'s Office cleared the officers, concluding that they had “acted in lawful self-defense & defense of others.” Pasadena Police Lt. Phlunte Riddle dismissed the importance of a weapon. “He was out in an area where he had committed a crime,” she said. “He, per the victim, we never saw the gun, but the victim was adamant that he was robbed.” Riddle also confirmed that patrol car cameras were not turned on. “The only way the camera is activated is if the unit is code 3,” said Riddle. Carrillo was charged with involuntary manslaughter; in a deal with the D.A. he was sentenced to nine months in county jail. In a settlement with the city, Kendrec's mother, Anya Slaughter, received \$850,000 & his father, Kenneth McDade, \$187,000 & the police were absolved of any fault or liability.

**March 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

Rekia Boyd, age 22, walked among throngs of Douglas Park residents enjoying the warmest March in many years.

Dante Servin, an off-duty detective became “frustrated” by the noise. Strapping on his piece, he went out “to get a burger.”

Soon he encountered Rekia & her friends leaving the park. Turning the wrong way up a one-way street he blocked their progress.

Gesturing from his car, Servin told the group to quiet down, sparking a verbal altercation with several of the men.

“Fearing for his life,” Servin fired five rounds over his left shoulder. He hit Antonio Cross then reaching for a cell phone & Rekia in the back of the head.

“She did not deserve to get shot,” Servin stated. “She did not deserve that. (But) my soul is clear.” He was charged that November with involuntary manslaughter, reckless discharge of a firearm & reckless conduct—the first time in 15 years a CPD officer was charged for a fatal shooting. On April 22, 2015, after three days of testimony, Cook County Judge Dennis Porter ended the trial. He said there was no doubt that Servin killed Boyd, but that he should have been charged with first-degree murder. Because the charge was too light, the case was thrown out. In a separate case, Rekia’s family received a \$4.5 million wrongful death settlement from the city. The Fraternal Order of the Police disagreed with this ruling. “It’s a sad day when an officer is charged for doing something he was trained to do,” spokesman Pat Camden sighed.

April 9, 2012
Landover, Maryland

Michael Bailey, Jr. age 26, lived the 1800 block of Gould Dr. in District Heights (nine miles from D.C. & 90% Black). According to his memorial website "He loved the outdoors, loved living life... He accepted everyone for who they were no matter what happened."

On Monday night, around 7:00 pm Prince County patrol officers were dispatched to the 8100 block of Sheriff Road, following a report of "suspicious people." Upon their arrival, the suspects fled. Terrence Garrett caught up with Michael. On Garrett's account, he tasered him but Michael pulled out the prongs & reached into his waistband for a gun. Garrett shot him 32 times.

Bailey's mother said the officer turned the ambulance away when her son was still alive. His brother said, "they left him lying there bleeding out like an animal."

April 12, 2012
Carnarsie, New York

Tamon Robinson, 27, was a barista who sold scrap building materials on the side. He'd been given permission to sell a pile of extra paving stones at Bayview Houses. He was loading them into a SUV, when the NYPD confronted him. He ran towards his mother's building 100 yards away. Two officers chased him on foot, a third veered his car off the sidewalk, striking him.

The police pulled Tamon from under the car yelling "Wake up! Wake up!" before bouncing him off the hood.

He died after six days in a coma handcuffed to his hospital bed.

In their initial report, the NYPD claimed that the cruiser had been parked when Tamon ran into it, causing his wounds. They sent his family a bill for \$710 to repair the squad car. When numerous eyewitnesses contradicted this, the NYPD recanted. Eventually, the city awarded Tamon's family a \$2 million settlement in their wrongful death lawsuit.

April 12, 2012
Stockton, California

James Cooke, 57 years old, had diabetes & weight issues. On April 9 he got surgery on his leg & could hardly walk. Three days later, a little before 2:00am, he was pulled over for speeding near the intersection of Bianchi Rd. a four-lane semi-residential strip & West Lane, a north-south artery.

Five officers were involved in the stop: Jeremy Edens, Kevin Hess, Gabriel Guerrero James Manor, Irshad Mohammed. According to their report, James pulled over then exited his vehicle on the run. The officers caught him, clubbed him with batons, bound him with a restraint such as The Wrap.©

They slung James into the squad car, “his legs . . . across the seat his back against the car door & window.” He was unresponsive—“did not complain of pain or injury” initial reports said—during the 10-minute drive to the hospital.

Attempts by emergency room personnel to revive Henry were unsuccessful. More than 200 people attended his funeral.

According to its advertisements The Wrap© is “media friendly”: “We’ve all been involved in violent altercations that simply don’t look good to the public,” a spokesman explains—“once the wrap is applied it places the person in a restrained position that looks good to the public, looks as if we’re caring for the individual.” On May 31 some 150 friends of James Rivera, Jr., Luther “Champ” Brown, Jr., & James Cooke marched in Stockton, holding banners, including Slave Patrols Then, Police Forces Now & Fuck the Police. The crowd quickly blocked off El Dorado & attempted to shut down several banks. One man, after stating that he rejected a “peaceful solution,” sang the Dead Prez number, “I Have a Dream Too.”

April 21, 2012
Las Vegas, Nevada

Sharmel Edwards, age 49, a single mom raising two teenage girls & grandmothering one worked with disabled kids. “She was not a kooky lady,” according to acquaintances. She'd been dating Ken Droog owner of the Smoke Ranch Junction a northwest valley bar on Rainbow Ave. “They had big blowouts,” a long-time patron explained, “but she was a nice gal.” “I've never known her to be violent at all” added a friend.

Records show that the call originated from Droog's home. He told 911 that a woman had taken his Cadillac & that his .45 was in the center console.

Officers stopped the car in an alley about a mile from Droog's bar. A 30-minute standoff ensued. Bar regulars speculate that Sharmel was on the phone with Droog.

Witness testimony disagrees regarding what happened next. Some say Sharmel exited the car hands over head some say she was cradling a gun other say a phone. Witness agreed that no one ordered her to drop a weapon.

Five officers fired—Melvyn English Todd Edwards, Truong Thai, Matthew Cook, Christopher Grivas.

Sharmel was hit by multiple rounds. Witnesses noted that police were laughing & trading high-fives.

Clark County D.A. Steven Wolfson ruled that Metro Police acted “reasonably & lawfully.” “[They] gave Ms. Edwards ample opportunity to end their confrontation in a nonviolent manner. . . . Unfortunately, as numerous witnesses stated, she ignored the officers' commands & exited the vehicle with a gun drawn. She left the officers with no choice.”

May 6, 2012
Oakland, California

Alan Blueford, age 18, planned to graduate from Skyline High in June. The first Sunday in May he visited friends to watch Mayweather beat Cotto in twelve exciting rounds.

Around midnight Allan & two friends were standing on the sidewalk of 90th Ave., a residential neighborhood: apartment buildings & single-family homes.

Two OPD officers—Miguel Masso & an unnamed partner—had been dispatched to respond to a fight on 85th & Holly when they observed the young men passing an object among them assumed to be a weapon or drugs.

Pulling their car onto the sidewalk, they questioned the youth & began to pat them down. Allan ran.

Turning into the driveway of 9230 Birch he tripped & fell on his back. A party was in full swing in the backyard, children playing soccer on thin grass in the front.

Alan attempted to rise. Masso fired four times striking him in the left shoulder & both lungs. Masso's fourth shot hit his own foot. "I was scared," he said, "It scared the living crap out of me."

Initial reports indicating an exchange of fire were proven false. A pistol recovered twenty feet from the body was found to hold Alan's prints, but no gunpowder residue was found on his hands. Masso worked for the NYPD before moving to Oakland in 2008. According to a 2007 lawsuit, he & three other officers used excessive force on Rafael Santiago in a 52nd Precinct holding cell. Santiago was slammed against the floor, tased three times, maced, & kicked repeatedly in the head & body. On March 9, 2010, New York City settled with Santiago for \$54,000. Alan's parents, Jeralynn & Adam held a press conference in front of the Alameda County Coroner's Office to demand the release of their son's autopsy. During a May 23 town-hall meeting, Police Chief Howard Jordan was booed out of the room after mispronouncing Alan's last name. Alameda County D.A. office Kenneth Mifsud concluded that "Masso actually & reasonably believed that his life was in danger after he had made eye contact with Mr. Blueford & that if he did not shoot, he would be killed." The family eventually received \$110,000, approved by the Oakland City Council, 7-1. The Alan Blueford Center for Justice, 2434 Telegraph Ave., hold events & shows art relating to police brutality.

May 31, 2012
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Darius Simmons, age 13, was a good kid.
The 6th grader had moved
to Milwaukee's 8th District a month before.
John Henry Spooner, age 75, lived next door.

On the last Thursday in May
Darius was taking out the trash
when Spooner confronted him
.9mm drawn, accusing him of theft.

Darius, who had been in school all afternoon
denied the charge. Spooner's surveillance camera
shows the scene:

Darius comes down
the steps of his house: yellow t-shirt, black jeans

hauls a blue plastic trash can from the curb
to the backyard, off-screen.

Spooner
on his porch, enters his house
returning as Darius returns grabs another bin.
Spooner's two dogs appear—
puppies, knee-high or so—
one mostly black, one black & white.

As Darius reaches for the bin
Spooner advances, gun pointed at his chest.
He backs Darius across three sidewalk blocks.
They stop.

The dogs romp on the margin
nose to nose, poised in a dusting of snow.

Spooner speaks to Darrius' mom
whose come to the door, gesturing with his gun
as the dogs sniff the sidewalk, tails wagging.
When he fires

both dogs take off after Darius
who runs off camera, falling. The white & black pup
returns to its master's side, then slinks
to the house, tail down; the black one
races home.

Darius' mother, Patricia Larry, ran to where her son collapsed & held him in her arms. Spooner paced on the sidewalk until police arrived. "Yeah, I shot him,"he said. Darius's body remained on the sidewalk while police questioned his mother in a squad car for two hours. They searched her home & arrested Darius' older brother for truancy. Spooner was found guilty of first-degree homicide. His defense attorney, Franklyn Gimbel, argued that he was suffering from mental disease that prevented him from knowing right from wrong.

May 31, 2012
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Dontaylo Wright, 20 years old was due to graduate from Brooklyn Center Academy in one week exactly. School Superintendent Keith Lester said, "We'll have a diploma, we'll announce his name. We'll miss him." Dontaylo's family recalls a young man who was "good with kids and "incapable of even saying the word 'hate.'"

Dontaylo has been drinking on Thursday night with friends. Around 8:30pm, Officer Kou Moua was first to respond to a phone call: black male with a rifle spotted near 53rd & Emerson: plush boulevards fifteen blocks & one freeway west of the Mississippi.

Family & friends say it was a baseball bat. But Moua saw a scoped rifle cradled in his Dontaylo's arms. He pulled to the curb got out, weapon drawn. Ordered Dontaylo to drop it. "He was pointing at the young man telling him to drop the weapon" a witness said. Dontaylo died at the scene of multiple wounds.

Dontaylo's friends didn't know why he would be carrying a rifle & doubt that the weapon was loaded. Moua, four years on the force, began his career in the multi-cultural cadet program, according to authorities, who added that he'd received many letters of appreciation. He was put on paid administrative leave while the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office investigates, according to Brooklyn Center Police Chief Kevin Benner. Dontaylo's family & friends visited the place where he died the following Friday.

June 1, 2012
Miami, Florida

Kijuan Byrd, age 39, was the father of two:
a 3-year-old daughter & a 1-year-old son.
He's been a football star at Norland High
graduating in 2001. He attended West Hill
Community College & worked as an electrician.

On the night in question, Kijuan & a friend
Michael Smathers, were spotted in a pickup truck
in the parking lot of Club Lexx, a concrete road house
whose marquis advertises "GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS"
& "Dancers Wanted." Lukace Kendle
a Force One Security guard employed by the club
arrived around 10:45pm, parking his Avalanche
next to the Ford F-150.

He saw Michael
in the driver's seat, rolling what he believed
were marijuana cigarettes.

Fifteen minutes later
returning to his own car for his cigarettes
Kendle heard someone say

"I going to kill him."
Michael, who survived, told police that he & Kijuan
were exiting the truck when a man approached
shouting "Hey, hey, what you said?"

"Fearing for his life," Kendle fired.
He shot Michael through the truck door
then walked around the vehicle
firing into the windshield. He saw Kijuan
drop out of the truck & try to crawl beneath it
& shot him at least twice in the back.

After being read his Miranda rights, Kendle told investigators that Michael might have been pulling something, though he was unable to see the victim's hands. He was taken into custody for questioning but released soon after. Charged with 2nd degree murder, he took a "stand-your-ground" defense. Kijuan's father, Donald Byrd, said "He was my baby. He was my youngest son...He was shot twice in the back." His mother, Arlene, said, "My baby is dead, & it's senseless. I don't understand why, & I don't know what I'm going to tell my grandbabies."

June 12, 2012
Memphis, Tennessee

Christian Freeman, 19, was one of four children living with their mother in Foote Homes. He was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia according to his aunt, Celena Jones following an encounter with Memphis police.

On April 9 he was at fourth & Beale a tourist zone about fifteen-minute's walk from Foote Homes Park, where the WC Handy Museum faces FedEx Forum, which features Disney on Ice Janet Jackson, the World Wrestling Federation the Foo Fighters & Marvel Universe when not hosting the Grizzlies. An unnamed officer had to slow down to avoid hitting Christian, who yelled & made obscene gestures. He was arrested & booked but misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and obstructing a passageway were dismissed the following day. Christian spent a month at a mental health facility after that according to his aunt. Returning home he was quiet, kept to himself, didn't have a job. Celena "never experienced him having a violent episode."

On the night in question a woman walking near FedEx Forum flagged down a Memphis squad car having seen a man with a knife who may have been stabbing himself near Fourth & Beale.

An officer encountered Christian behind FedExForum. According to Police Director Toney Armstrong the officer "called for backup" & when it arrived three of them confronted Christian who "advanced on them with a knife."

Responding to questions regarding Christian's diagnosis, Armstrong said, "Certainly there have to be some other underlying issues with this particular young man, & we certainly don't know what they are at this time." Two officers involved in the shooting have been relieved of duty with pay during an investigation & won't be identified until they are "debriefed." Christian's uncle, Todd Jones, believed "The police could have just tried to incapacitate or restrain first, before killing." The Memphis Police Department developed a Crisis Intervention Team program, & has trained 241 officers, but answers about whether any CIT officers were involved weren't immediately available, police spokeswoman Sgt. Karen Rudolph said.

June 13, 2012
Baltimore, Maryland

At 17, Christopher Brown was a member of ROTC, the wrestling team, & a church usher. He was "Mr Congeniality" according to his teachers. His mother, Chris, described him as "an extremely great personality, you know what I mean? He drew a crowd."

Around 10:30pm on a Wednesday Chris & several friends "knicker-knocked" their Randallstown neighborhood—a long-standing ritual of mischief that involved ringing doorbells & throwing rocks at doors.

Off-duty county police officer James LaBoard, a nine-year veteran heard a rock hit the front door of his home & opened it to see several kids running away. He chased them through neighbor's yards & into the 4000 block of Starbrook Road.

Finding Chris hiding in bushes, he ordered then pulled him out. In the altercation that followed LaBoard put a choke-hold on Chris causing unconsciousness & death.

He called 911 from his front lawn on Susanna Avenue at about 10:30pm. He was seen administering CPR to no avail, when his fellow officers arrived.

After a 4-day trial, a jury found that LaBoard had not broken the law by placing the teen in the neck restraint. On June 27, Laboard was charged with involuntary manslaughter & released on his own recognizance. "Couldn't (the officer) pull him out & talk to him?" the teen's mother asked.

June 14, 2012
Flatbush, New York

Shantel Davis, age 23, was “a sweetie.”
“She was sweet,” said a friend, “she did her stuff
on the side, but she was a good person.”

On the day in question, Flag Day, she was driving
erratically, a little before 6:00pm.

Plainclothes narcs, Detective Atkins
& Officer Guida, observed a gray
Toyota Camry cross the double-yellow
& run a red at 38th & Church.

It crashed
into a parked minivan. Steam was seen
rising from the hood. The cops pulled alongside
to approach on foot.

Shantel squirmed out
from behind the inflated airbag
into the passenger's seat; she flung
the door open, striking Guida.
Meanwhile, Atkins entered
from the driver's side, trying to shift
the car into park.

Moving toward him, Shantel
or someone got the car into reverse
& hit the gas. “He's halfway in
& halfway out of the car as it's moving
backwards,” a police spokesman explained,
“the weapon discharges one time.”
Atkins shot her in the chest.

The officers motioned for Shantel to exit the car
which she did, “stumbling & staggering.”
Bleeding profusely she fell.
“Blood was all over the place.”

By 8:30, scores of people gathered. They jeered “murderers” at the investigators working the scene. Around 8:45, a fire truck arrived to hose away the blood. Speaking nearby, state assemblyman N. Nick Perry judged the shooting “questionable.” “[T]he police may have not acted with good judgment,” he said. Shantel, who was facing numerous charges & out on bail, had stolen the Camry a week before. Armed with a pistol, she’d approached Vilma Craig, age 57, & told her to hand over the keys. “She had the gun pointed at me,” Craig told the Daily News. At the time of the shooting, Detective Atkins had been sued seven times, allegations including undue force & fabricating charges. “He has put his gun in so many faces,” said Chevon Messiah, who lives in the neighborhood. “He’s like a person that wants to take control,” said Kahief Williams. “It’s unfair to measure a narcotic detective’s performance by the lawsuits that are filed against him,” said Michael Palladino, head of the Detectives’ Endowment Association.

June 26, 2012
Cincinnati, Ohio

Corey McGinnes, 35
was the father of eight;
an aspiring football coach
living in North College Hill.

On a pleasant Tuesday
(82 the high) he'd teamed up
with two sons (aged fifteen & sixteen)
to play pick-up basketball

in Crutchfield Park.
The other team lost.
When they refused to pay-up
a fight broke out:

shots fired. Police arrived.
Witnesses record Corey
"trying to defuse the situation"
when Sgt. Ryan Schrand

tasered him. "He was a father
fighting to protect his children,"
said Lisa, a niece. Corey never
regained consciousness.

Corey's family filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the North College Hill PD, claiming that Corey was unreasonably electrocuted. The suit alleges that Schrand's taser was not properly maintained (voltage & current output exceeding manufacturer specifications) & that the manufacturers had issued warnings against tasing the upper chest. "We hope agencies across the region will recognize the dangers posed by chest shots & stop this dangerous practice immediately," said Al Gerhardstein, an attorney representing the family. "Corey is not the first person to die after being tased & he won't be the last unless we do something," Lisa added.

June 26, 2012
Newport, Georgia

Upon graduation from Groves High
Deshone Travis, age 20, found work
at the Dollar Tree Warehouse
“& was still hoping to go to college”
according to his dad. “He was a good kid
& I mean he looked like a kid”
his father said.

 Around 8:00pm
an employee who escaped
through the drive-thru window
of the Wendy's off U.S. 80
called police: “Wendy's being robbed
by two black males!” she exclaimed.

Around midnight, Port Wentworth
police officers arrived
at Algerene McKinnon's
Corsair Circle home, next door
to Deshone. McKinnon's two sons
worked at the Wendy's in question.

Shortly thereafter, Deshone pulled
into the driveway of his house
having given a ride home
to the youngest of McKinnon's boys.

The police confronted Deshone
in the driveway, asking him
if they could search his car.
He said yes, handing over
the keys to his ten-year-old Acura.
Then he called his dad.

 “Everything
was calm, no one was irate” his father
later told the press.

 “Police wanted
to impound his car . . . it had something
to do with a robbery. I thought I was
just going there to [. . .] talk to the officers
& see why they thought his vehicle
was involved. I told him I'd be right there.
I was only ten minutes away.”

Deshone told the officers his father was on his way & wouldn't want them to impound the car They gave back his keys. He climbed in & began to back out of the driveway.

“He puts it in reverse”
McKinnon said. “He didn’t gun it or anything to that effect.”

The two officers were on the grass beside the car. One smacked the window, said “Get out the vehicle! Get out the vehicle!” The other walked behind the car firing several times through the rear window.

The Acura proceeded to roll across the suburban street stopping at a neighbor's driveway

Deshone dead at the wheel.

“406 metro. Shots fired. Shots fired, ”one officer called. in. “Be advised all units. Signal 13. Signal 13. Officer hit,” the dispatcher replied. “No,” the cop corrects “We have no officers down. We have an officer involved in the shooting of the suspect, ma'am.” “Their lives were not in danger the one guy actually walked behind the car,” McKinnon claimed. The suspect's attempt to “flee,” “placed officers in imminent danger,” the Port Wentworth Police Chief said. “[O]fficers were forced to discharge their firearms. Alicia Blakely of the National Action Network, asking for an investigation, said, “[T]hey had a Barney Fife Mentality & with that Barney Fife Mentality a life was lost Unnecessarily.” Services were held the following Saturday at Jerusalem Baptist Church, Pastor Annie B. Lee officiating.

June 27, 2012
Clayton County, Georgia

On the night in question, around 2:00am Trevion Davis, age 13, & James Odom, 18 broke open the door of an empty house on the 1600 block of Bonanza Church Road.

The one-story, vinyl-clad, barn-like structure surrounded by trees, was “around the block from the local police,” according to Fox News' reporter Morse Diggs. “Two burglary suspects apparently did not do their homework” he says. A neighbor saw them; cops swarmed the house. “Multiple men” scattered into the woods. An unnamed officer confronted Trevion coming out. He displayed a weapon—a B.B gun—& was shot in the head.

Trevion was taken to Southern Regional then airlifted to Children's Healthcare at Egleston, where he died.

Trevion's grandmother, Treva Austin, asked, “Why did they have to shoot him in the head?” Mildred Williams, who lives in the house that was broken into, said she was “thankful” her neighbor called the police, “But I'd rather he cleaned the entire house out and, you know, the police not shoot him.” “I want to stress, to the residents of Clayton County, I appreciated their commitment for getting involved with crime in general,” Porter said. Agents with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation are investigating.

June 28, 2012
Dothan, Alabama

The late afternoon sun was bright
as Christopher Thomas, age 22, high as a kite
drove a white Ford Explorer
down Dothan's suburban streets.
Officer Darren Moody was in his patrol car
when Chris passed by; mistaking him
for Jerry Jerome Hill, a convicted felon
known as “Booty Bop,” Moody gave chase.
The squad car's dashboard camera
watches Chris's car accelerate
down the tree-lined, empty blocks.
The K-9 unit in the back seat yaps
as Moody narrates: “Northbound on Linden
west on Houston, north on Greentree”—
Chris snaps left into the parking lot
of a strip mall on Montgomery highway
swerves left at the end of the lot
burns rubber on a sharp right
to dodge an unmarked car—
“just tried to ram an unmarked”
Moody states. Around they go
a second time, Chris's window
wide open, his empty left hand
visible as he weaves between vehicles.
He stops when he runs out of room.
Moody pulls alongside, the camera
failing to face the scene. We hear Moody
scream “get on the ground now! Now!”
According to witnesses, he runs
to the open window & fires five rounds
point-blank, into Chris' neck & chest.
A second vehicle's camera, pulling into the lot
sees the SUV accelerate wildly across
the four lanes of Montgomery, to smash
through the wall of Sign Designs
injuring one person inside.

Houston County D.A. Doug Valeska reported the shooting as “justified” after a grand jury “did not indict.” “He’s a human being in this community,” said Valeska, “All he had to do was stop.” “This is not TV land,” Valeska continued. “You don’t shoot out tires.” Chris’ family filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit alleging that Moody acted improperly. In video footage of a small protest in the parking lot, an unidentified woman states, “this is a training camp for execution style police killings, & I’m in fear for my life. I don’t go nowhere. I stay at home every day. I even quit my job so I wouldn’t have to worry about being pulled over by the police.”

June 30, 2012
Tukwila, Washington

Victor Duffy, Jr. dead at 25, was 19 when he kicked over a trash can on his way home from a school dance on East Macadam Road. Confronted by police he refused to provide identification & was reported to have cursed. He was climbing into the driver's seat of the patrol car when Sgt. Doug Johnson tased him. The charge "did not have much effect." Victor pulled the probes from his chest punched the officer in the face. Charged with malicious mischief and third-degree assault, he pleaded guilty' and spent some time in jail. Jail changed him according to his family. "He was never the same." his cousin said.

On the day in question Victor, diagnosed with bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress, called 911 and told the operator he was threatening his younger sister with a golf club.

His mother, Deanne Mills, arrived at her home on South 150th the same time as the cops. "I begged them not to use a Taser" she said. "I told them he was afraid and I asked them to take care of him."

She & her daughter & nephew were herded outside, leaving Victor alone in the house. "As soon as we were out I heard 'zzzt,' 'zzzt,' & knew they were tasing him," said Deanne.

Victor broke his ankle jumping out of a second-story window. He lay on the ground as officers tased him again. In the ambulance he experienced "breathing difficulties" and was pronounced dead at the hospital.

July 1, 2012
Saginaw, Michigan

Milton Hall, 49, slept on the streets.

The sky was blue; Midwestern wisps
of altocumulus—a pleasant afternoon
when the SPD received a call
he'd stolen coffee from
a convenience store.

Some reports
suggest it was Milton who called 911.
The first officer on the scene, A. J. Tuer
also known as Wojciechowski
found Milton in the parking lot
with a knife. She reported he was
not “looking so nice”

said that if officers
didn't arrive soon she'd “have
to shoot this guy.”

Soon five officers
and a dog cornered Milton near the lot's edge.
He's said to have taunted them:
“My name is Milton Hall, I just called 911!
My name is Milton & I'm pissed off!”

The dog's leash was let out; it advanced.
This further agitated Milton.
“Let the motherfucking dog go!” he screams.

In witness video he steps back. Six officers
fire 47 rounds, striking him eleven times.

Protests erupted. “It appeared to be a firing squad dressed in police uniform.” Milton's mother, Jewel, said. Jesse Jackson & Al Sharpton visited Saginaw to press for a further investigations. In August, the Dept of Justice agreed to investigate the case. In September, Saginaw County Prosecutor Michael Thomas joined state officials to announce that they had cleared the six officers. Several officers were reprimanded & one demoted, but all returned to duty. In March, Jewel settled with the state for \$725,000. According to her attorney, Debra Freid, her “primary motivation was to make sure that this never happens to another family.” “The amount was never the central issue for Jewel,” Freid said. “They killed a man,” another of Jewel's attorney's said, “to protect a dog.”

July 10, 2012
Wichita, Kansas

“Mama” Karen Jackson, age 45
whose married name was Karen Day
obtained a Protection from Abuse order
against Derrick Jackson some weeks before.

A little after 10:00 pm, a hot summer night
Derrick called police to report his ex
had come to his home at 708 N. Spruce.
She had a mental illness, he said.

Derrick left his house, meeting police
at the corner of Murdock & Ash
a three minute walk away.
Having confirmed the PFA

the police advanced to the house.
Karen was sitting on the porch
a lighter in on hand, bottle in the other.
She held a butcher knife in here armpit.

Observing the knife they yelled “drop it!”
She dropped the can & bottle, advanced
down the porch steps, stabbing herself
in the arm.

Karen yelled for the officers

to shoot her; they complied
striking her multiple times.

On Friday, 10 August, Occupy Wichita protested Karen's death. Some hundred people gathered at Hillside & 21st Street before marching to the city's central police department. A PA system was erected & the microphone opened for families to tell the police their grievances. “You are out here taking innocent people's lives for no reason,” said Shakeitha Scales, mother of Timothy Freeborn Collins Jr., age 17, who was killed by police in April after exiting the backdoor of his house, hands up.

July 17, 2012
Columbus, Ohio

According to DelShawn Walker
Thomas Destin, age 21
had no interest in guns.

“He said
on several occasions. . .
‘I don’t plan on getting [one].’”

At 8:46 Tuesday morning
Thomas called 911
whispering into his phone

that men had broken into
his Far East Side apartment.

Upon arrival, CPD Officer
William Kaufman observed
Thomas follow two other men

out the door; he shot Thomas
in the hip & chest. Thomas
pronounced dead at the scene.

A gun was found next to Thomas' body, but no evidence it belonged to him. Soon after the shooting, officer Billie Camp-Donovan saw David J. O'Neal, whom she suspected of the break-in, a few blocks away. She jumped from her cruiser to chase him. He doubled back & hopped into her car. She fired six rounds, but didn't hit him. He was arrested later, charged with grand theft auto, vandalism, receiving stolen property & obstructing official business, all stemming from entering the vehicle. At a press conference, Columbus Police Chief Kimberley Jacobs said, “We have to be able to react in instantaneous fashion.” “We don’t have the luxury of [...] waiting to find out,” she said. “[W]e need to move first,” added Thomas Paige, a recruiting officer. “We can’t wait for the other person to act.”

July 22, 2012
Los Angeles, California

Alesia Thomas, age 35, said she suffered bipolar disorder & chemical dependency when she left her children, age 3 & 13 outside an LAPD police station at 2:00 am with a note asking the state to care for them.

A little while later officers arrived at Alesia's South L.A. apartment to arrest her for Child Endangerment. That got her into cuffs but she resisted getting into the car.

As she lay half-in the back seat, hands behind her Mary O'Callaghan, a former Marine & 18-year veteran of the force, swore at Alesia while kicking her seven times in the groin and abdomen.

An internal review of the cruiser's dashboard camera reports her "eyes roll back & her body roll[s] toward the driver's seat." They drove her to a hospital, where an attending physician pronounced her dead. Cardiac arrest.

The Police Commission, a civilian oversight board, reviewed the incident & issued a report noting O'Callaghan's "apparent indifference" & concluding that "ineffective & inappropriate" force was used. O'Callaghan was charged with felony assault under color of authority. Her lawyer, Robert Rico, said "she's shocked by the decision of the DA's office [. . .] & looks forward to proving her innocence in court." LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said, "I hope the community recognizes that the act of one officer cannot & should not be an overall reflection of this Department. Tyler Izen, president of the police union, cited O'Callaghan's reputation for being "diligent, courteous & ethical." Alesia's family has sued the LAPD for wrongful death & to obtain the dash cam footage, which has not been released.

July 28, 2012
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Around 9pm, Chavis Carter, age 21 was sitting in the passenger's seat of a white pickup on the side of the street with two other boys about his age. Jamie Anderson noticed the idling truck and called the police. What happened next remains murky. Under pressure, the JPD released a few minutes of dashboard video blaming significant gaps in the recording on three different equipment malfunctions.

In the first tape, officers Keith Baggett and Ron Marsh approach the vehicle. Chavis steps out first. He appears calm and self-restrained. Marsh leads him to the back of the truck & runs his hands over his shirt & jeans.

The footage jumps.

Baggett ushers the driver from the truck and pats him down while Marsh leads Chavis off-camera.

The footage jumps.

According to police reports, Marsh found a small amount of cannabis and several baggies in his pocket. Chavis had introduced himself as Laryan Bowman but now gave his correct name; a warrant out for his arrest in Mississippi. Chavis called his girlfriend, Brandie. "He just told me that he loved me and that he gave them a fake name and he was fixin' to go to jail," she explained. He was frisked again, cuffed & left in the second cruiser. Meanwhile, the other kids both white, are put in cuffs and left in front of the dash-cam car.

The footage jumps.

According to reports officers searched the vehicle uncovering a small scale

beneath the middle seat. Back on cam
Baggett speaks to the two whites
their hands now free. The audio is spotty
but most of his speech can be heard:

*You're lucky. You, both guys are both lucky
OK? Your this close to going to jail for possession.
Because you know just because it was
over under him it was in your truck. [...]
We don't know what it is. Y'all not getting it back.
So its going to be disposed of. [...]
I mean just because, I mean that that right there
just happens to be in the same truck as him
with the weed so what do you think
and he's got baggies [...]*

*on top of the possession
you could get obstruction, & also the truck
your mom or step-mom won't get this truck back.
So, so that is the severity of what's going on
up here. You want to do that in Caruthersville
do that in Caruthersville. Go take care of it
up there. But don't come down here
and, & meet with somebody you don't know. [...]
With that bag there, it doesn't matter
if its sugar, coke or what. It can still be
classified as a felony. O.K., so what
we're saying is, go back home
or where you're going. Don't be
coming down here. If you come back down here
don't be doing it at nine, ten o'clock.
If you're legitimately down here
for a reason, that's fine. But sitting
on the side of the street like this.
No that ain't going to happen. Too many
people are watching. I'm going to keep your names
on file so in case we ever run across you again
I'm not going to bail you out next time.
You get a free pass. He's going to jail
because he's got something down in Mississippi
that has nothing to do with y'all.
So alright, you two get back home.*

The recording ends when the kids drive away.
A briefer, second piece of tape shows officers
some time later, discussing Calvin's dead body.

“He was breathing a minute ago,” one says.

The official report concludes that Calvin hands cuffed behind his back as he sat in the squad car, pulled a .38 Cobra from beneath the seat where he'd “secreted” it. Pulling his arms up he twists his neck enough to fire a single shot into the back of his head.

The police account evoked skepticism. “How he shoot himself in his right temple & he left-handed? In handcuffs?” one of Chavis' friends asked. His father, Douglas Carter, said “They could have told me anything, that he died in a car wreck or anything else [. . .] But suicide? I don't believe it for one second.” The NAACP sponsored a vigil & the FBI was asked to investigate. The woman who'd originally called the police said Baggett & Marsh were outside the vehicle when the shot was fired. Chavis' prints were not found on the gun & no tests for powder residue were made. Jonesboro Police Chief Michael Yates admitted that the death was “bizarre & defies logic” but closed the case, stating that “Carter took his own life while under the influence of mind-altering drugs & while engaging in a series of criminal acts.” Later, Marsh was reprimanded for not searching Calvin properly & failing to check for weapons in the back seat of his car. Both officers returned to duty.

August 11, 2012
Maywood, Illinois

Around 9:00pm on Saturday
Christopher Middleton, age 26
was in a restaurant with his fiancée
Tanya & their 6-year-old son.

"Chris was a great father,"
his cousin, Mathis Hoskin, explained.
"He was always helpful, never mad—
always happy with a smile on his face."

Their 4-year-old, Taniyah
darted into the street
her cousin, John Passley
chasing after her.

An off-duty CPD officer
skidding to avoid the collision
ran his motorcycle into them.
Taniyah was hit by the bike
her face skinned on the pavement.

Chris came out of the restaurant.
"You could have killed my daughter!"
he yelled. Witnesses report the officer
saying, "Take it easy I'm the police."

Other say no identification
was made. Chris punched the man
and when he fell to the pavement
John began kicking him.

The officer drew his weapon
and shot Chris through the groin.
"Why did you shoot me?" Chris asked.

He was pronounced dead
at Loyola Medical Center
just before 10:30pm.

The officer & Taniyah were also taken to Loyola, where they were treated overnight for abrasions & contusions. Fraternal Order of Police Spokesman Pat Camden said the cop “fired in defense of his life.” If he'd only remained calm, “he'd be alive now,” Camden argued. Maywood residents held a prayer vigil for Chris.

**August 11, 2012
Tangipahoa, Louisiana**

At 2:30am, Cjavar “Deejay” Galmon
age 18, was in Club 81
a one-story brick affair
at the intersection of route 51
and the rails. A rural zone:
grass & gravel, a gas station & shacks
on both sides of the tracks.

Deejay had gone under pressure
from friends, according to his mother
Willene Briggs, who stopped by
to give him some cash.

A scuffle occurred in the parking lot.
Sheriff's deputies arrived. Soon
they had a suspect on the ground
and were chasing a second man
down at the highway's edge.
Deejay approached the deputies
in the parking lot, hands up.
“You've got the wrong person,” he said.
Deputy William Phebus, looking up
shot him point-blank in the face.

Community members mobilized “Justice for DeeJay”; his family filed a federal suit. Louisiana State Police called in as a third-party investigator. Their findings were to be handed over to the district attorney. Deputy Phebus was found to have had several complaints of excessive force filed against him while at the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office. Phebus resigned from the Plaquemines Office & the suits were settled without verdict. Phebus worked for the Elaine Hunt Correctional Facility, then the St. Gabriel Police Department. Kevin Ambeau, current Chief at St. Gabriel, recalled that Phebus' employment was terminated because he “ had more complaints on him than the entire department put together.” He next joined the Sorrento P.D., but was not hired after the 90-day probationary period. He returned to Elaine Hunt Correctional Facility, then joined the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office. “When I found out it was Officer Phebus, it didn't surprise me,” said Chief Ambeau. On [x date] Sheriff Danielle Edwards stated that “We have no reason at this time to believe that this 18-year-old did anything wrong & certainly, I want to make that clear. He was unarmed. I'm not saying he violated any laws what so ever.” However, he determined DeeJay's death an “accident.” A poem in DeeJay's memory, available at [www.PoetryPoem.com/ Johnnyduncan](http://www.PoetryPoem.com/Johnnyduncan), includes these lines: “The Tangipahoa Community clamored for his Crimes; / & asked for Fact, Evidence & pure Facts. / They hesitated to accept his Crime / As being Black, black, souly black! / TO Symbolize CONCERN, / The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff Department & LA State Police, / Called for a Thorough investigation of the 'Caste'. / 'AN ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE,' contemplated the Sheriff. / Just another "n word"* gone to waste. / Their Autopsies, lies & Excuses are nothing but Jokes. / IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP BLACK FOLKS!”

August 18, 2012
Baltimore Maryland

Rudy Bell, aged 63, a Vietnam vet was a neighborhood stalwart who “looked out for everybody” in Franklin Square. Homeless a diagnosed schizophrenic, he “stayed to himself” and “didn't bother nobody,” according to friends. The police felt differently. In 1999 they arrested Rudy for drug possession & a few years later for burglary, assault and resisting arrest—convicted of the latter his jacket grew. He was arrested in 2003 & 2008; other charges subsequently dropped, go unrecorded.

A few months earlier, Rudy took up residence in an abandoned townhouse—1607 West Lexington—a narrow, red brick three-story in a block half full of them, fire-department X's on boarded-up doors.

Around 12:30 Saturday afternoon two BCPD officers responding to burglary call encountered Rudy on the third floor. Apparently, he lunged at one of them with a broken bottle or a knife, cutting the officer's face. The other opened fire.

Rudy's neighbors expressed outrage, disbelief. “That man wasn't no threat at all. They could have maced or done anything. But to shoot him & take his life? No,” said Eric Anderson. Another friend said “He fought for our country & to have a government, or state official to execute him like that, I think it's wrong.” Representatives of the Baltimore Peoples Assembly, including Sharon Black & Rev. Cortly “C.D.” Witherspoon, who heads the Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, gathered for a vigil & protest in front of the boarded-up house. Black & Witherspoon had been arrested on the 6th for “trespassing” at Baltimore City Hall during a protest about jobs, police brutality & rec center closings. “We are not going to accept that. It's a matter of principle. City Hall is the people's house,” Witherspoon explained). Observing that Rudy was the 10th person shot by BCPD since the beginning of the year, they asked, “How can it be a burglary in an abandoned building?” & speculated that the cops “could have de-escalated the problem without force.” A police spokesperson did not know if the officers could have been used alternative weapons. The injured officer soon recovered. An internal investigation was launched to determine if the fatal shooting was justified. Rudy's son filed a suit in Baltimore's Circuit Court alleging BCPD negligence in handling “mentally ill” suspects—a violation of Article 24 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights. When the BCPD moved to dismiss the complaint on the grounds of sovereign immunity, the court granted that motion. Bell has appealed.

August 28, 2012
Bellflower, California

Tony Francis was 22; his daughter 2.
Family members describe him
as a family man, with no need
to rob or steal. He was “kind, thoughtful
& sweet,” according to his older sister
Harvesha Knight. “He takes care of his kids”
said Tony's friend, Jerry Maxwell
“He had a good job & everything.”

A little after 2:00 Tuesday afternoon
Tony was on Alondra Blvd, a busy four-lane
with apartments & a small park on one side
Alondro Tire & American Tire Depot on the other.
According to LA County Sheriff's Department Spokesperson
Lt. Holly Francisco, an unnamed deputy
was driving on the street when he saw
a strong-arm robbery take place—
someone was assaulting someone
punching them & trying to rob them.
“We talked with [American Tire Depot],”
says Eddie Jones Jr., of the LA Civil Rights Association
“and he never tried to rob anyone at the tire shop.”
The shop's skittish manager told the press
“Nobody's seen anything.”

Seeing the deputy, Tony cut down an alley;
the deputy pursued in his vehicle
jumping a curb & slamming his car
into a cinder block wall. “All of a sudden
we just heard really loud gunshots”
said Debbie Becdach, who lives nearby.
“We just looked at each other & said
'Oh my god, I think that's gunshots.'”

Having seen Tony reach toward his waistband
the deputy fired three or four times
through the driver's side window—
striking Tony in the back of one leg
in the back, & in the back of the head.

Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene.
Neither gun nor victim was found.

Soon after the shooting, Tony's friends & family learned what happened, creating drama beyond the crime tape. Across the street, deputies took Tony's fiancée into custody. A woman identified as the fiancée's sister, crossed the crime tape & was quickly arrested. Tony's uncle, Ray Davenport, pressed deputies for answers, but they weren't talking. The family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department, based on civil-rights violations & negligent tactics. According to Bryan Dunn, an attorney with the wrongful-death powerhouse, the Cochran firm, Tony "hadn't committed any violent crime." The "waistband allegation" is a familiar tactic, says Dunn. "What the police do under these types of circumstances is invent a scenario that will make an unjustified shooting seem justified," he told the press. "We feel that there might be some coverup with the Sheriff's Department," said Eddie Jones. The family held a march at the corner of Clark Avenue & Alondra Boulevard & later joined a coalition of families whose members have been killed by police. They hold candlelight vigils on Tony's birthday, the fourth of June. One of Tony's supporters wrote on his blog: "When will justice prevail against the racism & corruption happening right here in our streets we call home (shaking my head). Us as people need to stick together, FUCK THE BULLSHIT! Killing off each other is just handling the white man's dirty work for them. Like the old saying goes 'Together We Stand, Divided We Fall'. LETS MAKE A DIFFERENCE !"

August 30, 2012
Seminole, Oklahoma

Aaron Palmer, age 24, was employed
by Vince Van Landingham
at Valiant Paintless Dent Repair.
He was “the nicest person I’ve ever met.
We all loved & adored him,” said Vince.

Aaron was home at 1931 Killingsworth
a single-story rural house
driveway & attached garage
a swing-set in the side yard, pile
of brush to be burned on the day
Google uploaded its street view
(July 2013).

On this late August Saturday
around 7pm, Aaron, recently engaged
was making dinner for his daughter
Mia, when the cops arrived
to serve a warrant on his dad
Randall, who hadn't lived there for years—
a car registered in his name still parked
in a field across the road.

Randall's failure to comply
with a drug court request
gave officers authority to employ
“no knock entry.” Neighbor Kent Dawson
was in his front yard at the time.
“As the first two cops that entered the house
crossed out of my sight into the front door,”
he explained, “not more than one second passed
before there was a gunshot.”
“Initially I thought they had shot the pit bull
that was sitting out there
close to the front porch.
It's a short hallway, very short [. . .]
and he was shot in the hallway.
In other words the door opened
and immediately they shot.”

According to the police, Aaron
who'd been chopping onions & celery

confronted Kenneth Cherry, a rookie
with a knife & was shot once in the heart.

Friends & family were outraged. "He's not coming back & I want some justification for that. It's just not fair. It's not fair to his little girl, it's not fair to his new fiancée," said van Landingham. "If you was to drive up on. What would be the first thing you'd notice? Children's toys? You go in with guns blasting then? No, no. I see no justification for what was going on," Dawson explained. "An innocent man died because they didn't take the time to knock on the door." The community held a vigil. A petition for justice was circulated & the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has begun looking into the case. The Seminole County District Attorney's office will ultimately decide whether or not the officer was justified in using deadly force.

**September 2, 2012
Vallejo, California**

At 4:30 am, Mario Romero, 23 and his friend Joseph Johnson were sitting in Romero's white Thunderbird outside 256 Lofas Place: a single-story A-frame, garage in front one among dozens on this tree-line street. Mario's three sisters, one the mother of Johnson's children, were inside waiting for them. Mario had given Johnson a ride home from downtown.

Vallejo Police Officers Sean Kenney & Dustin B. Joseph were in their patrol car, Kenney at the wheel, responding to reports of a burglary committed earlier that evening. According to their testimony, as summarized in the D.A.'s public report they were several blocks from the burglary site when their attention was drawn to the Thunderbird because it was the first occupied car they'd seen since entering the neighborhood.

Kenney recalled that he'd read a report of a white T-bird involved in a shooting the month before. They pulled to less than a car's length away their headlights shining into the front seats and exited their vehicle. Mario & Joseph appeared surprised. They dropped their hands into their laps & Mario stepped from the car & appeared to turn around. Officer Joseph saw a black semiautomatic in Mario's hand. Kenney saw Mario turn, but no gun. According to the D.A.'s report "yet he did manage to see Mr. Romero reach for his waistband." He ordered them to show their hands. Joseph complied. Mario shrugged, bringing his hands up from waist band to chest. Officer Joseph fired several times, striking the car door the window & Mario, who fell back into the vehicle. Kenney fired almost simultaneously. They called for Mario to put his hand up but he flopped down across the center console. Both officers resumed firing, through the windshield.

Kenny jumped onto the Thunderbird's hood.
Mario's sisters, watching from the window
fire several shots from that position. The police say no—
he was only looking for a weapon.
Joseph was shot once, in the pelvis.
Mario's body held thirty bullets:
three in the head, five in the neck
six in the torso, fifteen bullets
in his arms & chest, one in the left thigh.

Mario's sisters, who witnessed the event, were not allowed to accompany him & Joseph to the hospital, & were not interviewed by police for more than two months. They staged numerous protests in front of the Police Department & City Hall. Court records revealed that both officers had been cited for violence in the past. Kenney had been named in several fatal shootings & excessive force complaints. Joseph was cited for abusive behavior many times, including an assault on Anthony Trapps in Kaiser Hospital, Vallejo. In another incident, he pepper sprayed a group of students eating at a Jack in the Box. He was also accused of the unlawful search of female minors, including students at Vallejo High. On September 19, hoping to pacify the protests, Vallejo Mayor requested that the State Attorney General investigate the killing. On 12 June, 2013, the Solano County District Attorney's Office concluded that the police acted in self-defense. D.A. Don du Bain's report emphasizes meth in Mario's blood & baggies holding some 60 pills, noting that because he & Joseph were on felony probation, they were subject to search & seizure without cause. The report reveals that Kenney's fingerprints were found in the blood on a pellet gun wedged between the center console & rear portion of the driver's seat, but concludes that it was "unreasonable to believe that anyone, in an attempt to fabricate evidence" would plant a toy gun. It discounts the testimony of Mario's sisters for coming too late. Because their statements were taken "almost ten weeks after this incident occurred," du Bain argues, "it would have been natural for them to reflect & discuss this incident. In contrast, the statements made by Joseph & Kenney were taken merely hours after the incident ..." On May 8, 2013, the Justice for Mario Romero Coalition demanded a federal investigation. More than 50 individuals, including members of the Oscar Grant Committee, the National Committee to Prevent Police Brutality, the Anti-Police Terror Project & the Alan Blueford Center for Justice, held signs to protest police bullying, discrimination & terror. The District Attorney's Office analysis was forwarded to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, & the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California for independent review. du Bain said the "unusual" move was made at the request of Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis in light of public interest in the case. "We have nothing to hide & we stand behind the review," Vallejo police Capt. Jim O'Connell said. Family members filed several lawsuits. Oakland attorney Catherine Haley, representing the family, called the shooting "absolutely execution-style." Matthew Haley, an attorney representing Romero's 4-year-old daughter, called the shooting "completely unjustified." As recently as 3 March 2013, protesters occupied the Vallejo City Council. One of Mario's sisters, Cyndi Mitchell explained why she continued to protest: "We've got a lot of people who hate us because our brother was killed [...] So you've got these people — they think one thing happened, & it's 'Oh, why are they fighting? He was a gang-banger, a drug dealer & he pulled out a gun. He was a parolee.' & so the first description they got in their mind was of this monster. & my brother wasn't like that." A spokesman for Vallejo Police said that the department will no longer comment on officer-involved shootings. He confirm that Kenney had been assigned to the detective's division, characterizing the move as a "lateral movement," not a promotion.

September 24, 2012
Memphis, Tennessee

Justin Thompson, age 15
was a freshman at South East Prep Academy.
On Monday evening after supper
he walked with his two brothers
to the Flash Market #156
a gas station at where Winchester
intersects with Hickory Hill.
On the way home a little before 8:00
they paused beside an unmarked black car
driven by off-duty Memphis Police officer
Terrance Shaw. His brother Anthony Simmons
provided the following testimony:

Cops: *Was your Brother Justin armed
if so, with what?*

Anthony: *He had
a little small black gun, like
a little deuce deuce automatic?*

Cops: *Are you referring to a twenty two?*

Anthony: *Yes.*

Cops: *Describe the events prior to
during, & after the shooting?*

Anthony: *My brother asked me to go with him
to serve someone some green. We walked
from the Fast Check on Winchester
to the street where it all happened.
The dude was already there.
He stepped out of the car.
My brother asked him how much he had.
Dude said "I got twenty." My brother
uped his gun at the dude, & dude
shot my brother one time. I fast walked off
and went to my mama's house
and told her what happened.*

Justin's mother, Shirley, said that her son left
with his two brothers; his brothers returned
and he did not. Justin was taken
to the Regional Medical Center, where he died.

More than 300 attended Justin's funeral; vigils, petitions & community protests followed. A pile of stuffed animals marked the spot. The Mid-South Peace & Justice Center organized meetings in which residents voiced their concerns. "There are some who are angry, there are some who feel they are not being communicated with," said Melissa Miller-Monie, who organizes the Community-Police Relations project. Numerous statements complicate x's testimony. "I think there are several questions that we had at the inception of it & there's still several & we don't feel like that as a police officer he should have allowed himself to be put in that position," said Police Director Toney Armstrong. Five shell casings were found at the scene. Witnesses report seeing Justin get into the car minutes before hearing multiple gunshots. Another witness reports one of Justin's brothers running through their yard, calling for an ambulance. Shaw, who at 28 was involved in three shootings prior to this one, was observed cruising in front of Justin's house prior to the killing. He originally claimed that he shot Justin during an armed robbery attempt. [x] Simmons told the detectives that his brother did not have any marijuana. Shaw later claimed that Justin was homeless & that he'd given him food & \$20. He admitted to having exchanged a series of text messages & a phone call with Justin on the night that he killed him. He said that he'd agreed to provide Justin with money for food & drove the streets looking for him, eventually discovering him in an abandoned house. According to Shaw, he then drove Justin to the Flash Mart & was driving him back home when the teen acted "anxious," pulled a revolver & "became angry." Mayor A C Wharton Jr. hired consultants to review MPD recruitment, training & disciplinary policies. "I wish I could get more information," he said "Y'all know I expressed that concern a long time ago." Police Director Toney Armstrong said that he wouldn't resign, despite heavy public scrutiny. Shaw resigned from the police force in lieu of termination. He was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing. "There is insufficient evidence to create a reasonable chance for a conviction against Mr. Shaw, particularly when considered with the foreseeable defense that could be raised under the evidence," Shelby County District Attorney Amy Weirich wrote. Reached by phone, Shaw said he hopes this shows people that he is not a monster. "It appears that it's a systemic issue," said law enforcement consultant Melvin Tucker. "It's a cultural problem more than likely."

**September 27, 2012
Lauderhill, Florida**

Earl Brown, age 73, was a security guard at International Global Metals a recycling center at 31st & 17th: the night watchman there since 1977.

Three Lauderhill police responded to Earl's call: suspected prowler on the premises. They arrived a little after 2:00 am. Earl yelled "I'm a security guard!" and put his hands in the air but the officers had already begun shooting.

Earl was taken to Broward Health Medical Center then transferred to Florida Medical Center. He suffered two heart attacks and died two weeks later.

Investigators found Earl's .44-caliber magnum at the scene. The three officers involved in the shooting were put on paid administrative leave.

October 11, 2012
Rockford, Illinois

Logan Bell, age 18, was a “sweet & caring young man” who suffered from a “social disorder”; toxicology reports reveal he hadn't been taking medication prescribed for bipolar symptoms. His grandmother called the police, explaining that Logan had a handgun—a pellet pistol— & feared he was “a danger to himself.” Rockford PD Sergeant Andre Brass & two officers, Phillip Statler & Jeremiah Cizerle found Logan in a field near Pilgrim Baptist (1703 S. Central), waving the Crosman C-11. They ordered him to put it down. “Shoot me! Shoot me!” Logan replied. “You're going to have to shoot me. I'm not going to drop the gun.” He fired a BB at Brass, who, uninjured, tripped while retreating; Statler & Cizerle hit Logan sixteen times; “Ten were through-and-through,” explained Winnebago County Coroner Sue Fiduccia—three in the head the fatal shots through the heart & lung.

Standing in the field alongside former Ald. Victory Bell, Lloyd Johnston, President of the Rockford NAACP, & Oliver Emerson, a Pilgrim Baptist deacon, the Rev. Kenneth Board said police should have done more to talk Logan down. “Mental illness should be handled with concern & compassion,” he read. “As we see it, the only thing criminal here is the response...” Rockford Police Chief Chet Epperson said, “Our hearts go out to the Bell family [. . .] The officers did the best they could in a split-second situation [. . .] in our line of work we do not have the option of choosing when & where we will become involved in deadly force.” The Winnebago County Integrity Task Force (35 officers from 13 area law enforcement agencies) investigated the incident. Winnebago County State’s Attorney to determine whether the use of force was justified. Illinois State Police Lieutenant Kurt Cavanaugh, who led the Integrity Task Force, determined the officers' action to be justified. “Our hearts do go out to them,” he said. “It is very unfortunate that this had to happen.”

**November 1, 2012
Rockford, Illinois**

Demetrius Bennett, age 31, fought with his wife Amanda Armbruster. Shortly before 6:00 am she visited the Winnebago County Justice Center asking for help retrieving personal items from their home at 1811 Montague a debilitated one-story A-frame half-sized windows above vinyl siding. Officers James Presley, Ryan Marko Mark Danner & Nolan Walker accompanied her. Demetrius answered the door, then went to grab one of his two children. Police told him to put the child down; eventually he did. Amanda took both children out of the home. The cops surrounded Demetirus in the kitchen—“a very small area.” For about an hour they “ordered, requested & cajoled” him to submit to arrest. He grabbed a serrated kitchen knife. They offered to let him handcuff himself, then tried pepper spray in the face. Demetrius sheilded his eyes with a plastic bag & made a “move.” No reports indicate how many shots the officers fired.

On 11 April 2013, Commander of the Winnebago & Boone Counties Integrity Task Force Todd Shaver Illinois Special Prosecutor Dave Neal concluded that deadly force was “absolutely justified.” “Demetrius Bennett remained defiant,” Neal said. “He indicated to police officers he was a man who would fight, that he was not a man who in any way would give in to the demands, lawful commands & requests of the Rockford police officers.” “[T]hese officers are going back to work Sunday & that there is no misconduct at all by these officers & what was conducted back in November,” Rockford Chet Epperson added. An attorney representing the family said he doubts the official version & was “shocked, surprised & disappointed” by the verdict.

November 8, 2012
Chicago, Illinois

Dakota Bright, age 15, a freshman
at Paul Robeson High School
(6835 S. Normal Boulevard)
loved hip-hop, jokes & video games.
“A normal, regular teenager,”
his cousin, Lenard Clark said.
He wrestled, played basketball
collected shoes & hats—testament
family members said, to his love
of fashion.

On the Thursday in question
Dakota visited a grade-school friend.
They surfed the net until 3:30
when he head for his grandma's
Park Manor home; a daily routine.
Perhaps he took 69th street
over the interstate, past raw rows
of unoccupied single-family houses
to the tree-lined blocks of Calumet.

About a block from home, unnamed
CPD officers approached, allegedly
telling him to “drop the gun.”
Dakota ran. He was shot in the back
of the head—“execution style”
family members say. His body
handcuffed, lay on the grass
for five hours as cops searched
for the gun, eventually finding one
several backyards away.

Dakota's mother, Panzy Edwards said he didn't own a gun. The CPD called him a gang member, citing previous arrests. “They're [trying] to dog my son & make him look bad,” she replied. On Saturday 10 November, more than a hundred protesters marched into City Hall, blowing whistles & chanting up the stairways, which amplify sound. They occupied the hall outside City Council chambers on the 2nd floor, then proceeded to the hall before the Mayor's office on the 5th floor. At Dakota's funeral, the following Friday, family members distributed fliers demanding “Justice for Dakota! Indict, Convict & Jail Killer Cop!” The funeral procession was escorted by, in Panzy's phrase, a “mob of police cars,” as well as several helicopters. In the cemetery, cops with rifles & shotguns lined the route to the grave. After the ceremony, as Dakota's mother, uncle & sister began to leave, police stopped the vehicle. “This isn't about your son anymore, this is about you,” one told Panzy. Gesturing to her brother, another said, “We should take him into the back of the car & fuck him up.” “They had rifles in their hands as if we were in a third world country at war,” Panzy observed.

November 11, 2012
Southfield, Michigan

Harold Collins, age 64, was a veteran; “active” & “respectful” according to neighbors. “I would never hear a complaint from him or from his neighbors about him,” Angelica Mercado said. “He would nod because he couldn't really talk,” said Drema Sanders, who lived next door. The left side of Harold's mouth was covered by a tumor—the result of throat cancer he'd fought for years.

On Veterans' Day, a little after 2:00 pm Harold entered the Southfield police station & pointed a .38-caliber handgun at the front desk officer, who yelled at him from behind bulletproof glass. Harold appeared to be staring “into the distance & not a word was said” by him. Harold pulled the trigger but his gun did not go off.

The desk officer drew his handgun and four others arrived. They ordered Harold to drop his gun. He pointed it instead & “gun fire was exchanged.” The first responding officer was shot once in the shoulder, the subject was shot “several times,” & died in an area hospital.

Chief Eric Hawkins said the wounded officer was “conscious, alert & in good spirits,” & praised the actions of his men. “My officers performed courageously under difficult conditions,” he said. “In this situation, the use of force was unavoidable.[. . .] They performed exactly like they were trained.” Mayor Brenda Lawrence said she was “very sad that one of our officers was attacked.” Video surveillance of the incident was not released.

**November 29, 2012
Cleveland, Ohio**

Around 10:30 pm on a Monday Timothy Russell, age 43, drove the '79 Malibu SS his brother David had given him a few weeks before Melissa Williams, age 30, along for the ride. The Malibu's "defective muffler" backfired just as they passed the Justice Center; several officers, mistaking it for gunshot pursued.

Tim didn't stop.

He had convictions for receiving stolen property, Melissa for drugs & attempted abduction. Whatever the reason, they "zig-zagged" through the city streets, several cars in pursuit. Probably, they took St. Clair onto route 6—the "Grand Army of the Republic Highway"—exiting into East Cleveland on route 20 then a sharp right onto Forest Hill and the first left, onto Terrace Rd.

In the twenty-five minutes of this more than 60 cop cars joined the chase; of the 277 officers on duty that night more than 104 participated. Radio recordings reveal a senior officer stating:

"No cars have permission to pursue."

A second officer relays the order:

"Fifth District cars, terminate pursuit."

The reply comes back: "Yeah but this is our patch. We're going to see what's going on." Later another officer characterized the scene: "Cowboys & Indians. Horses Everywhere."

Months later

the private firm Visual Evidence which offers "World-class trial services for litigation professionals"—

“make your case” is their motto—
created a digital animation of Tim
& Melissa's final minutes.
The video, available on-line
begins with a long disclaimer:
“Shot sequencing” (meaning the order
in which x number of bullets were fired)
“was unable to be determined
with any degree of certainty.
Therefore, individual shot sequencing [. . .]
is for illustrative purposes only
and may not reflect the actual timing
and order of individual shots [. . .]
synchronized to the best of the animator's
ability.” The view they choose
is high overhead—a Google Earth
perspective—the whole scene
lit as though by afternoon sun
short shadows falling from a row
of apartments that frame the right side.

The animated cars arrive from bottom right
the Malibu in white like the head of a sperm:
whiplash tail of more than 9 cars following.
Tim takes a hard right past a playground
onto a driveway toward the parking lot
of Heritage Middle School. Reaching it
he faces a small margin of grass
dividing parking lot from bus lane;
he goes right into the empty lot.
The first car in pursuit peels left
around the median, to cut him off.
The second car, speeding up, clips
the Malibu, sending it spinning to the left.
As the cars pass each other, the cops fire
several shots from the driver's window—
the first of about 140 rounds—
“shots fired! shots fired!” the radio squawks
prepping the scene that followed.

Tim swerves across the median
heading back down the driveway
then stops where the lanes are blocked.
Cops converge from all sides
firing in three bursts. The animation

depicts them as blue arrows
labeled by last name, the bullets
as white tracers that fade
when they reach the car.

Rinkus fires 13 shots; Salupo 2;
Diaz, in the playground, fires 4 times;
Ereg, from just behind the Malibu
fires 6 more; Box, standing near
the driver's seat, fires a single round;
O'Donnell fires a dozen times;
Sistek another dozen rounds;
Demchek fires 4 from behind;
Farley 4 from further back;
Moore, facing the Malibu
fires 19 rounds; Patrick another 9;
Sabolik, further down the drive
fires 4 rounds; Brelid is the guy
who reloads at least once, jumping
onto the hood of the car to fire
the finale of his 49 shots directly
through the windshield.

The final volley caused fatal wounds.
Tim was shot 23 times through head
& chest, Williams 24 times—
“the damage to her face & torso
was extensive. Her mother, Martha Mae
would later say, “I’m not going to let them
close her casket ... They’re going to have to look
at what the police did to my child.”

Local protests & national media coverage prompted investigations into how (according to Ohio A.G. Mike DeWine) “the system failed everyone.” Mayor Frank G. Jackson, Police Chief Michael McGrath, & City Safety Director Martin Flask revealed the first review, which didn’t address the use of deadly force. More than a third of officers had violated at least one department policy. Sgt. Michael Donegan was fired for having “disengaged himself” from the pursuit. “[T]he gravity of your failure” was profound, said Flask. Eleven others were disciplined. It was “not a pleasant duty,” the Mayor said. McGrath added that the incident would impact the department’s relationship with the Cleveland community. In November 2012, six officer were indicted—Brelo for manslaughter, five supervisors for failing to control the chase. “They are heroes, but they, too, must answer to the law,” Cuyahoga Co. Prosecutor Tim McGinty said. In March 2014, investigators re-enacted the final moments of the chase. The US Department of Justice opened a civil rights investigation. Their findings— “that CDP engages in a pattern or practice of using unreasonable force in violation of the Fourth Amendment”—were released on 4 Dec. 2014, were overshadowed by reports on the CPD’s shooting of Tamir Rice, age 12, in a recreation center about five miles north-east of the school. Several days earlier, on the second anniversary of the outrage, community members held a march & vigil. “Lord, we also want to ask that you would comfort the families of Michael Brown, the family of Tamir Rice,” Michelle Russell said.

**December 2, 2012
Breux Bridge, Louisiana**

At 7:40 pm, Darnesha Harris
age 16, was leaving
the 900 block of Landry Street

a road that runs past trailer homes
single-story homes, old trees
neatly cropped lawns—

when the cops arrived
responding to “a disturbance.”
The responding officer's vehicle

collided with Darnesha's
Toyota Corolla. She reversed
hit a car parked on the roadway.

Darnesha hit forward again
traveled through a ditch
struck a bystander and

another parked car.
One of the responding officers
exited his vehicle; he ran

or walked to Darnesha's
leveled his gun
and shot her in the head.

Witnesses said Danesha was shot with her hands in the air. The bystander was transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries. Danesha was survived by her mother, Latonya D. Lewis of Lafayette, LA; her father, Dartaniel Harris of Sunset, LA; three brothers, Dartaniel Lewis, Darius Harris & Ryan Francis; one sister, Kiera Lewis; maternal grandmother, Eva D. Lewis; one niece, two nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives & friends. Funeral services were held on December 11 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Community members gathered at the Carl Williams Memorial Park to protest. Many believed that there were several other ways the situation could have been handled. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Willie D. Lewis & paternal grandparents, Edward & Diana Harris.

December 6, 2012
Houston, Texas

Shelly Frey, age 27, fled New Orleans for Houston, seeking work post-Katrina. She was, according to her father Shelton “the perfect mom, perfect friend, perfect daughter.” She struggled to find regular employment while raising two children by herself—her two-year-old suffering from Sickle Cell.

In early 2012 she pleaded guilty to shoplifting tee-shirts & meat from a Walmart; she agreed not to enter the stores again.

Around 10:00 pm on Thursday at the Walmart Super Center off Route 45 Shelly & two friends—Tisa Andrews & Yolanda Craig—were spotted by Loss Prevention “stuffing items into their purses.” Loss Prevention notified Louis Campbell an off-duty Harris County Sheriff's Deputy of 26 years, moonlighting in uniform.

He approached the three women as they paid for several items. They refused to stop. One swatted Campbell with her purse & the trio ran to a car, where two children (not Shelly's) were waiting. Either Tisa or Yolanda got behind the wheel; Campbell opened the driver's side door, gun drawn. He commanded them to stop.

The car was placed in drive & began to move forward. Campbell, “fearing for his life,” shot Shelly through the neck.

The women drove away, eventually stopping at an apartment complex where paramedics pronounced Shelly dead at the scene.

Hearing the news, Shelly's parents drove overnight from New Orleans. For several days, investigators did not contact the family or let them see their daughter's body. "I can't eat, I can't sleep—I just need to know," her mother Sharon Wilkerson told the press. "Why couldn't you just shoot the tire, shoot the window?" she asked. "Was it that serious?" Many blogs protested the killing; one called it "death by boosting." Harris County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Deputy Thomas Gilliland, stated that Campbell was justified in his use of force. "I think it knocked him off balance and, in fear of his life & being ran over, he discharged his weapon at that point."

December 13, 2012
Chicago, Illinois

At 38, Philip Coleman had degrees from Morgan Park High School the University of Chicago & UIC. He had “never been in trouble.” “I’ve never seen him out of sorts” said Dana Robinson, a neighbor. “I’ve always seen him laughing always seen him smiling. Everything was always good with him.”

On Wednesday, December 12 Philip “went through a bizarre episode”— he barged into his neighbor’s garage hurled himself against a fence hit his mom, took off. His father Percy, drove the neighborhood. When he found his son he hugged & kissed him but Philip spoke incoherently: “Who are you? You’re not my father!” He struck his dad, knocking off his glasses then fell to his knees. “Anyone that hits their mother is sick. Shoot me. Shoot me,” he said.

The CPD arrived. “My son spread his arms & started making airplane sounds,” his father explained.. The officers aimed their guns at him. “I got in front of my son, said ‘You are not going to shoot him.’” He asked the cops to take his son to the hospital.

“We do not do hospitals we do jail,” the officer replied. Around 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday they arrested him. Later that evening six officers entered his cell as he lay sleeping “Stand up!” they said then tasered him three times. According to attorney Ed Fox who saw the tapes “Some of them were laughing [. . .] He was treated like an animal.” Philip was tased again

on his way to court & at Roseland Hospital—
at least 16 times while shackled. He died
in police custody on Thursday at 5:37 pm.

The death outraged the community. “My brother was totally tortured,” said Philip’s sister, Jacquie. “[H]e was treated like an insect.” “I can guarantee you, we will get to the bottom of this,” his father, a former Chicago Housing Authority police chief said, “I know the game & I know that they’re doing.” He had not eaten or slept since his son's death. He declared his intention to file suit against police at a news conference at New Creation Binding & Loosing Ministries in Calumet Park. The church is led by the Rev. Jolinda Wade, mother of Miami Heat basketball star Dwyane Wade. Police spokeswoman Melissa Stratton said the matter is under investigation by the Independent Police Review Authority. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who stood behind Coleman at the news conference, said that he does not trust a the investigation. 'A special prosecutor should be appointed,' he said, 'Philip was a board member of Rainbow/PUSH & was very passionate about helping people. He fell ill & needed help, & instead of getting help he got death.'

December 17, 2012
Atlantic City, NJ

At 18, Derek Mack “was sweet [...] a nice boy” according to Angel Camper, resident of Stanely Holmes Village—three blocks of city-administered garden apartments where Derek & his brother Raymond lived with family friends while their mother was in Virginia, preparing to move them there. “Atlantic City’s not for life,” Derek’s uncle Alexis Conde, said. “He was a happy little boy always playing games,” added Robert Conde. On probation stemming from a gun charge two years before, he was also looking for a job.

Around 2:00 on Monday afternoon, Derek was outside his apartment with a man named Davis when four ACPD officers approached.

Police initially claimed they were responding to reports of two armed males, later revealing that they’d been working with the FBI to arrest members of the “Dirty Block Gang.” They witnessed Derek & Davis returning to the same residence several times, & what appeared to be a transaction.

Ordered to stop, the suspects fled in different directions. One officer pursued Davis, who soon surrendered throwing his gun to the ground. Three others chased Derek across Baltic Avenue toward Rosemont Place where he tripped over a curb. They observed a gun in his hand. Recovering, he continued down Rosemont to City Place where he took a left, heading toward King Boulevard. Another officer, emerging from the courtyard between Baltic & King ordered Derek to stop; he slowed & turned.

“I was right there,” Stanley Holmes resident Mel Quan said. “He had his hands up.” Quan was near a utility box about 100 feet away. “He stopped right there,” Quan said, pointing. “He put his hands up, & that’s when the police shot him.”

Kaleef Shabazz, standing by mailboxes on City Place, testified that “Cops stopped him & they shot him three times

one, two, three times. Boom, boom, boom.”

One shot missed, hitting a nearby car. The others struck Derek in his upper torso & chest. Police handcuffed him where he lay.

According to Alexis Campbell, home feeding her child people ran outside. “Everyone was like ‘Oh my God!’” she said, & some, who knew Mack began to scream. “Cops said ‘Back up, back up,’” changing their focus from Derek to the growing crowd. When Derek began convulsing, an ambulance was called. Officers attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Derek was taken to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, where he died.

A fully loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol was recovered from the scene. Police maintained a heavy presence in the area until about 6:15 pm, showing dogs & assault rifles. Throughout the afternoon, knots of residents shouted taunts at them, accusing them of corruption & brutality. When they left, family & friends held a short vigil. In the following weeks they held rallies; they attended a City Council meeting on 27 December. City Councilmen Marty Small & Steven Moore visited the scene, talking with police & residents. “This is major,” said Moore. “This is absolutely major.” “This is not good, this is not good at all,” said Small, noting that the community was “very, very, very, very emotional & enraged.” “I know some of the facts about the case,” he explained, “but you have to understand that when people are emotional, they don’t want to hear anything when you have someone dead. . . . Our worst fears have come true.” Steve Young, of the National Action Network, urged resort residents to stay levelheaded. “Stay peaceful until we can get to the bottom of this all,” he said. On 11 April 2013, a grand jury cleared the unnamed officer of any wrongdoing. Acting Atlantic County Prosecutor James P. McClain explained that, although one witness account initially contradicted the officer's version of the incident, the grand jury determined that that person's account was consistent with the officer's story. The officer had no other course of action,” McClain said, adding that he was unsure if the officer was still on paid leave.

December 21, 2012
Macon, Georgia

Sammie “Junebug” Davis, Jr., age 49 was a diagnosed schizophrenic also known as “Mr. Big K” because of the regularity with which he visited the Kroger's store on Pio Nono Avenue. He came in every afternoon bought chips & a Big K Cola sat at the parking lot's edge eating the chips & drinking the soda.

His sister Cheryl warned him:
the wrong person might misunderstand him
but Junebug was committed to his ritual.

On a busy afternoon, the last Friday before Christmas, Officer Clayton Sutton responded to a 911 call from an elderly woman who said Junebug had made her uncomfortable by asking for change.

Sutton confronted Junebug in the parking lot; the two scuffled briefly before Clayton shot him three times in the chest.

“The nature of his departure, the way it happened, the shockingness of it, that still leaves a wound,” says Davis' brother-in-law, Leo Glover-Muhammad. Macon Police initially told reporters that Sutton was there to serve a warrant, but later said that wasn't true. They stated that a scratch on Sutton's neck was caused by a knife, before acknowledging that it was caused by a fingernail; Junebug was unarmed. During the six years that Sutton was on the force, 26 complaints were filed against him. Family & community members demanded that he be fired & charged. They have also accused the Chief of Police & Mayor of mismanagement, demanding resignations. Six weeks after Davis' killing, community members disrupted the Mayor's “State of the City” address, demanding “Justice for Junebug!” District Attorney David Cooke announced there would be no criminal charges filed against Sutton, arguing that he “reasonably feared for his life.” In March 2013, a former Mayor joined the NAACP, the family & other community leaders in calling for a Department of Justice investigation. Soon thereafter, the Macon City Council approved some minor reforms. Bibb County Sheriff David Davis claimed to have learned a lesson about public relations from the incident: “It's incumbent on us in the law enforcement community when something like that happens is to come to the community & say this is what we have so far, keeping the community informed of what we have.” On the second anniversary of her brother's death, Cheryl led a protest in front of the Macon-Bibb Government Center. She reported feeling disappointed by the lack of broad support for her brother.

January 4, 2013
Kendall, Florida

Yolanda Thomas, 34 years old was a mother of five; her boyfriend Xavier Tyrell Johnson, 31, a father of three. Yolanda had rung in the new year while out on bond; she'd been arrested in August on racketeering charges. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Broward Sheriff's Office believed that she led a ring of "boosters" stealing over-the-counter meds for resale to the poor. According to police files, they dressed in hospital scrubs to "blend in with other customers" at Walgreens and CVS; a few members distracted the staff, while others stuffed their purses with pain-killers. At a Pompano CVS, they stole Tylenol, Aleve, Advil & Breathe Right Strips. At a CVS in Plantation, they took Robitussin, Visine & Refresh Tears. Store agents caught on & began photographing the rip-offs, allowing them to leave several stores with the goods. The gang caught on; Yolanda phoned the lead FDLE agent, swearing she wouldn't surrender until she could raise money for bond.

Around 2:00 in the afternoon on a Friday, Yolanda & Tyrell were spotted by security at the CVS on 71st SW; a palm-lined avenue of strip malls just west of Indian Hammock Park. Miami-Dade Officers Raziell Tejada and Edgardo Gonzalez rushed to the scene; they confronted the pair in the parking lot. Perhaps her mounting legal woes explain why Yolanda took the wheel of a borrowed Honda Sedan heading northbound on 117th

Tejeda & Gonzalez in pursuit.

At 56th Street, officers bumped the car which swerved onto the margin & hit a barricade. Officers approached on foot and when the engine revved, they fired—at least fifteen rounds through both side windows. Yolanda was pronounced dead at the scene; Tyrell died hours later, at Kimball Regional.

“I don’t care if they stole a \$10,000 TV at CVS, you don’t deserve the death penalty,” said David H. Gold, a lawyer hired by Yolanda's family. “You don’t get to act as judge, jury & executioner.” John Rivera, the Police Benevolent Association President, said officers acted as they were trained to do. “People need to realize that a car is a dangerous weapon. The officers were in fear for their lives,” he said, adding that “From our perspective, the officers acted very professionally & precisely . . . We should say 'thank you for protecting our streets.’”

January 23, 2013
Alto, Texas

James Eric Griffin, aged 48
“would always have a smile,
he was just a pleasant person
to be around, according to Pamela Black
a close friend. Nonetheless, he was
nicknamed “Tragic” by his friends;
his parents, Bulan Mae Hackney
and Luke Griffin, & two sisters:
Mary Jo Woodard & Tina Hackney
had “preceded him in death.” Plus
he was diagnosed with a mental illness
and sometimes “off his meds.”

Around 4:30 on Wednesday afternoon
Tragic entered the Pick-N-Go at 100 S. Marcus
a shabby stucco gas station across from a Shell
on US 69—the store's sign shows a figure
dangling from a coconut palm, risking
life & limb to pluck the not-so-easy fruit.

The store camera shows Tragic swaggering
in white t-shirt & gray combat pants
among the candy bars & taquitos;
he asks for a pack of cigarettes, swipes them
off the counter & heads for the door.
Mamadu Meaye, behind the counter
said “hey man, what about the money.”
Tragic stops at the door, turns dramatically
his black jacket held in his hand
like a bull-fighter's cape. He pulls
a three-foot machete out of his pants
raising his shirt at the same time.
Mamadu said he could have the cigarettes
and when Tragic left he called the police.

Marcus St. Police Officer Brandon Michael Smith
confronted Tragic walking on Highway 69.
A few seconds of the dashboard cam
show the suspect walking toward the car;
confidently, his jacket swinging, he lifts
the blade from his pants—
“Woah woah woah! / Put that knife down!”

shouts Smith, as Tragic walks off camera;
immediately eight shots are heard.
According to Randall Francis, witness
to the scene, Smith “shot him once
and he started backing up
and he's shooting him again.”
But the video suggests all eight shots
were fired without interruption.

Nearly 200 family members & friends held a vigil for Eric a few days after his death. “I was shocked, saddened. But especially the family, they're really hurting," said Pamela, who planned the vigil & hopes justice will be served. “I just feel like it was an over kill,” she said. “I don't know if he was teasing or not, but he was off his medication,” said his cousin Cedric Reggie. Pastor Fredrick Shaw, who also spoke at the memorial hopes the loss will unite the Alto community. “The shooting is very tragic, what happened here in the community & I pray that the community will come together.” The Texas Rangers took over the investigation. The body was sent to Dallas for an autopsy. Eric's funeral was held on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at the Alto Community Fellowship Church, the Rev. Lionel Whitaker officiating.

January 24, 2013
LaPlace, LA

Barbara Lassere, 60 years old
lived with her parents in LaPlace.
According to her family, she was
“terrified of police officers.”

At the intersection of Elm & West 5th—
neatly trimmed lawns
bordered by chain link fences
face a car wash & parking lot—
around 1:30 Thursday morning
a St. John the Baptist Parish
sheriff's deputy pulled Barbara
over for having a headlight out.

She refused to exit her vehicle
and although later testimony confirmed
no one ever saw a gun, one of the officers
thought she might have reached for one.

Barbara slowly drove the short distance
home, followed by the trooper; back-up
was called & soon four deputies—
Jose Rel, Cleven Remondet, Michelle Pierson
and Steven Dailey surrounded the car.
Some wore riot gear & they brought a dog.

Barbara became increasingly confused
as she attempted to respond to the numerous
conflicting demands they shouted;
she put her hands on the steering wheel
outside the driver's side window
and up in the air in front of her.

A supervising officer ordered
one of the deputies to break
a rear window. Barbara jumped.
Deputy Pierson, at the driver's window
shouted “gun!” Dailey fired four times.
Barbara was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police originally claimed that Barbara fired a gun at them, but this was never confirmed in court. According to her son Norvel, “all of the defendants that testified, not one said they actually saw a gun in my mama’s hand. They all said they thought she was reaching.” The deputies testified that they heard a “single muffled shot,” which coincided with breaking of the window. A gun was recovered from the scene—according to Barbara’s family, she did not own one. State police investigators neither tested her hands for gunpowder residue, nor the gun to see if it had been fired. No bullets or casings were recovered. On February 16, 2015, U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Wilkinson Jr. awarded Norvel \$250,000 after a jury found that the sheriff’s deputies were “partially responsible” for killing his mother. They assigned 50% of the blame to Barbara, 20% to Dailey, & 10% each to Rel, Remondet & Pierson. According to Norvel, “It never was about the money. No amount of money can actually bring back my mom. I just needed for those officers to know that they did something wrong. . . . They always say that 'My actions were justified,' & they feel like they are never wrong. People are human. ... Humans are prone for error. So, not every action or every decision is going to be the right one.” Sheriff Mike Tregre, named a defendant in his official capacity, plans to appeal. He maintains that shots “were exchanged by both parties.” “While I am truly sorry for the loss of life, I think the jury was probably influenced by more recent officer-involved shootings & other incidents & their outcomes when they delivered this verdict,” he said.

January 24, 2013
Fayetteville, North Carolina

It was still dark at 6:10 am
when 22-year old Nijza Lamar Hagans'
Ford Explorer was pulled over by
24-year-old Fayetteville Officer Andy Hunt
at the intersection of Morganton & Virginia
a heavily wooded, suburban zone

Nijza had done five & a half years
and was on parole; he'd earned a G.E.D.
in prison & found a job at car wash
when he got out, but was soon laid off.
“If he'd been cut with the gun, he would've
gone back,” his father Reggie explained
“That's one reason I know he was running.”

He continued down South Virginia
to a dead-end; he turned right
into a long driveway, pulling up before
a white vinyl-sided house & garage.

Leaked dashboard footage shows
some of what happened next.
At 6:12, Hunt stands beside the driver-side door
collecting license & registration;
his mic is off, but he claims to have spotted
a gun in Nijza's pocket: “I wish I would have
had my mic on because it was perfect, you know
because I told him: keep your hands on the wheel
hands on the wheel.” Nijza forced open
the door instead, leaping from the car.
Hunt fires three times, point-blank
hitting the suspect once; as Nijza runs
Hunt turns, takes a step & fires twice more—
bullets that pierced the lungs & aorta
just above the heart.

In a memo filed on July 5, 2013, Cumberland County D.A. Billy West concluded that Hunt’s response was “lawful & measured.” Months later, the dash-cam video was obtained by *The Intercept* from an anonymous source. The footage — which the Fayetteville PD city had withheld, revealed that the fatal two shots had been wholly elided in West’s report. West stated that “multiple gunshot wounds to the chest” was the cause of death. Nijza’s family filed a lawsuit against the city of Fayetteville & Hunt, contending that the “killing was both wrongful & a violation of his civil rights.” The lawsuit also provides a detailed critique of the city’s record of racial profiling & argues that Hunt has a record of using excessive force. “Within the first two years of his employment with the Fayetteville Police Department, Defendant Hunt became the subject of multiple complaints accusing him of using excessive force against the citizens of Fayetteville, not only with his hands, but also with at least one of his police department-issued weapons,” the complaint states. Lawyers for the city denied these claims.

January 27, 2013
Homewood, Illinois

Brandon Culpepper, age 30, lived on Olive just east of Lions Park in this “southern suburb” a bit northeast of James Hart Junior High. The view is playing fields, tree-lined boulevards.

At 6:46 am on Sunday, Isaih Martin who lived on the second floor, called police having “heard a woman scream glass breaking, a body dragged across the floor.”

Unnamed officers knocked on Brandon's door. Minutes later he was dying from “multiple gunshot wounds”—he was pronounced dead

at 7:23 am by a doctor at Ingalls Memorial but residents say that police held his body until just before 2:00 in the afternoon.

Brandon was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in St., Worth. His mother, Marcia Holton, filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court against two officers. Brandon “survived a period of time before he died,” she argued, which caused him pain, suffering & mental trauma. The suit contends that the officers, identified as “John Doe 1” & “John Doe 2,” used excessive force. The Homewood PD said that the public integrity unit of the Cook County state’s attorney’s office is conducting a review. Mayor Rich Hofeld couldn’t give any specifics about the shooting. “Lots of unanswered questions on this one.”

**January 29, 2013
Jacksonville, Florida**

Anthony Dwayne Harris, age 38 had trouble with the law since he was 15 when he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder; since then, he'd been arrested 25 times for murder, assault, robbery, drugs & gambling . . . he was found guilty of 13 charges, mostly possession, gambling & traffic violations. He was at home on Tuesday evening released from jail a few days earlier after a seven-day sentence—time served on minor drug charges.

Anthony quarreled with his teen-age daughter; according to Shanice Green, another daughter “my brother, I guess he was trying to protect her. He kind of jumped in the middle.” Anthony shoved him into a China cabinet; the teen's mother called the police at 7:50 pm.

When JPD officers Scott Williams & Kevin Kilcoin arrived at 2115 N. Pearl, they found Anthony on the sidewalk, say he wouldn't go back to jail. When the officers attempted to subdue him he grabbed Kilcoin in a bear hug & all three tumbled to the pavement Williams. According to Williams, Anthony attempted to remove Kilcoin's gun from its holster; Shanice, watching from the window, disputes this account: “I did not see him reach for the officer's gun.” Williams disentangled himself, stood up and shot Anthony seven times in the body.

February 1, 2013
Augusta, Georgia

Around 2:20 a.m. Chaz Williams, age 21 failed to pull over for minor traffic violations; he was on probation from a possession charge and driving with a suspended license. "He just should've pulled over," his girlfriend Shyknica Stephens said, "Just go & see what they wanted, but he wasn't that type. He did not want to go back, so he was not gonna stop." Pursued by Sheriff's deputies he crashed the car into a fence near Church's Chicken & the Smart Gas store on Wrightsboro Road, then fled on foot a few blocks to the Fox Den Apartments on the edge of Augusta State University where Shyknica lived with their new daughter. "He said he was in a wreck, he had been running from the police," she recalled. A few hours later multiple deputies arrived. "They basically threatened to bust down my door banging at my window, banging at my door." As deputy Michael Woodward and several others entered the apartment Chaz fled to the bathroom with a knife and attempted to cut his own throat. Woodward fired multiple shots.

An autopsy revealed that Chaz died of "multiple gunshot wounds" & noted two self-inflicted knife wounds on his neck."We have no evidence to support the fact that any wrongdoing was done," said Sheriff Richard Roundtree. "We believe the deadly force policy was followed." On June 2, 2014 the Richmond County grand jury found insufficient probable cause to warrant an indictment against Woodward. "I'm trying to maintain from her," Shyknica said, regarding their daughter. "It's gonna be hard. I mean, she didn't even know him. She's only 6 months. She'll never know him."

February 3, 2013
Bronx, NY

Around 3:00 on Thursday afternoon, Ramarley Graham, 18 left one of several bodegas on Whiteplains Road & East 228th St. where the 2 & 5 trains run on green steel girders above hardware stores & nail salons.

The members of an NYPD Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit saw Ramarley adjust his waistband—a sign, according to the department that he was carrying a gun. When officers approached he turned, walking toward his mother's home on 229th. Surveillance footage shows him calmly unlocking the door. Seconds later, two cops sprint up, guns drawn and attempt, unsuccessfully, to kick down the door.

Other members of the unit pounded on the back door which was opened by a young boy who lived on the first-floor. They ran past the boy & his father to let their fellow officers inside. Three or four of them kicked in Marley's door, pushing past his grandmother Patricia Hartley & younger brother, Chinoor Campbell, aged six.

Officer Richard Haste confronted Marley, who was inside the bathroom trying to flush a small bag of weed. “Show me your hands,” Haste yelled then, “Gun! Gun!” He shot Marley point-blank in his upper chest.

No gun was found on Ramarley, in the bathroom, or anywhere else. Cops detained Patricia Hartley for seven hours at the local precinct, questioning her about what she'd seen. The Graham's lawyer, Jeffrey Emdin, wasn't allowed to meet with her for nearly two hours. Marley's body was misidentified, making it impossible for his parents to see it for four days. An unidentified officer released Graham's juvenile criminal record, which, by law, should remain sealed. Haste was placed on modified duty. Four months later he was charged with manslaughter. Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett tossed out the indictment, saying that the prosecution gave the grand jury flawed instructions. In 2013, the Bronx District Attorney's office presented evidence before another grand jury, which declined to re-indict. “There are questions they have to answer,” Graham's father, Franclot said. “They have been able to hide so far, but the day's coming when they'll have to speak...We need Haste on the stand.” In January 2013, the family received \$3.9 million from the city. “This was a tragic case,” said New York Law Department spokesman Nicholas Paolucci. “After evaluating all the facts, & consulting with key stakeholders, ... it was determined that settling the matter was in the best interest of the city.” Ramarley's mother, Constance Malcolm, hopes for another accounting. “There's a man that sits high & looks low, & we'll get justice one day,” she said. “We believe in God. It might happen. It's gonna happen slow, but it's sure.”

**February 8, 2013
Shreveport, Louisiana**

DeEric Bailey, age 22, was drunk at 4:00 am Saturday, two friends riding in his tan-colored Lincoln.

Cpl. Jennifer Monereau of SPD saw DeEric's Town Car paused in the middle of the intersection of Cotton & Common in the downtown area. She hit lights & siren but DeEric kept driving down Cotton to I-20.

Cpl. Hai Phan joined the pursuit at the Fairfield exit ramp. The chase proceeded on I-20 until DeEric hit a Toyota Camry entering westbound. DeEric lost control; the car jumped the shoulder onto an embankment, spun out crossed all lanes & crashed into the center concrete barrier.

Phan's dashcam video shows what happened next. The Lincoln is stationary against the barrier; Monereau is behind it, gun leveled. As she approaches, the girl riding shotgun stumbles out crumples to the pavement; Phan runs past her to aim through the car door. On the other side, a man's crawled out from the back and is behind the car enough to crab-crawl away when DeEric puts it into reverse.

He's barely begun to shift his weight when Phan fires five shots in rapid succession through the open car door.

The car bangs its rear bumper
against the barrier & stops.
Phan leans in, shouting
as DeEric puts it in forward.
She fires through the window
eleven times as he takes off.

The Town car stopped at the top
of an embankment beyond
the shoulder of the interstate.

Phan & Monereau were put on paid leave while the Caddo Parish District Attorney investigated. A few days later, the DA found that they had “acted reasonably.” DeEric’s mother, Tushica, said, “I guess the point right there, that I can’t wrap my head around, that’s a misdemeanor. I can see if there life’s in danger, if he had a gun & was trying to shoot at them, or if he was trying to run them over or something like that, I can see that, but, but you don’t just kill somebody, shoot him that many times, over a traffic stop. Cause he was stopped. I just don’t understand it.”

February 9, 2013
St. Louis, MO

Kelvin Davis talked uncle Otis Roberson age 32, into attending his first ever Mardi Gras this Saturday in Soulard. Around 2:15 pm they partied outside D's Place, a yuppie bar in a beautiful triangular brick building where 9th angles into Barton's curve. The menu features "Loaded Potato Bites" "Buffalo Chicken Wontons," the "Sloppy D" and "Soulard Soaker" (roast beef au jus where you pay extra for the cheese. Their website features college-aged waitresses (mostly white) smiling politely in tight shirts.

It was a warm winter—74 degrees at the end of January & nearly 60 throughout February's first weeks—plus the intersection was attractive especially if you're into restored decay. A community garden, renovated factories. Kelvin & Otis were partying on the sidewalk. The streets were crowded. Bands played. A man confronted Otis for hugging his woman and then, according to witnesses, a "fracasse" ensued—the man's friends threatened Otis who pulled a pistol & fired into the air. A pop was heard; dozens of people scattered. Peter George, a photographer for Boeing was crossing the street when he heard "a firecracker." In his estimation, what happened next took less than 90 seconds.

Two uniformed officers (their names, gender & race withheld) working part time for Mardi Gras Inc. rode up in a golf cart.

According to George the so-called officers frantically unstrapped guns while yelling at Otis. They had arrived behind him and because of the music & crowd his didn't hear. "They were yelling something I later learned was 'put the gun down,' obviously" Kelvin reports, "my uncle never heard." But Otis heard something; he turned.

Both officers, fearing for their safety, fired.
“All of a sudden I hear five, six, seven shots”
George explains. “I never saw the guy
until his head & shoulders came out
from behind a car.” “It's one of those things”
said George, “where your mind is like
this isn't really happening is it?” “I was never scared”
said George, “but I was just shocked
with as many shots & as much blood
as there was.”

 Otis's body was transported
to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

“If he'd known they were behind him he would have put that gun down,” Kelvin maintains. Responding to reports that “The police are shooting people!” local news arrived around 3:15, to find dozens of cops & several blocks taped off, with crowds gathering. “The police seemed pretty upset,” George said. “You could tell by their reactions it was not a happy experience for them.” He credited the officers with reacting “as quickly & as professionally as they could.” “This was police putting down somebody who wouldn't put down a gun,” he said. Police Chief Sam Dotson agreed, explaining that the officers “acted to save people's lives. They didn't know what the intention of that individual was. . . They did what they're trained to do.” In a tweet, Dotson added “There is nothing more volatile than mixing alcohol & guns. Please leave them at home if you are drinking.” St. Louis Mardi Gras celebrations have been relatively problem-free since 1999, when the annual Fat Tuesday Parade ended in a riot. Mack Bradley, a spokesman for Mardi Gras Inc. said that he thinks that because most people who attended the event had fun & went home safely demonstrates that Soulard's Mardi Gras is a largely safe celebration. “It's a great public festival,” he said. “The experience that the vast majority have when they're coming to the celebration is the best way to get that message across because they had a great time & they tell their friends that.”

**February 10, 2013
Vallejo, California**

Anton Barrett Sr. (41) was a supervisor at Domaine Carneros Winery in Napa where he'd worked for 12 years.

A little after midnight he was in the parking lot of Nation's Giant Burgers a squat take-out joint across from gas stations at the intersection of Sonoma & Tennessee.

His son, Anton Jr., was in the passenger's seat a friend he called Gas, in the back seat., supplied the marijuana. All three downed shots.

A few minutes later Vallejo officers Jared Jaksch & Jeff Tai observed Anton's white Lexus SC400 leave the parking lot with its lights off. They followed it Anton sped up running a stop sign. Three blocks later he took a right onto old Wilson Ave., hit a curb & parked at the dead-end of this poorly lit street where pale stucco apartments look down on Mare Island Way.

Officers Dustin Joseph & Sean Kenney had joined the pursuit. With Jaksch & Tai they chased the suspects in different directions. Kenney found Anton in a breezeway between apartments. He ordered him to stop, but Anton continued toward him.

Kenney saw him reach into his sweatshirt pocket &, mistaking his wallet for a Glock, fired five times.

Tai arrived a moment later. When Anton struggled to rise, Tai tasered him. Later, the officers provided medical assistance. Anton was taken to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where he died at 5:30, Sunday morning.

Anton Barrett, Jr., 18, was found hiding in nearby bushes by a K-9 team. He was booked on charges of resisting arrest. Gas was last seen fleeing toward Hichborn Street. "I'm very upset, because they didn't have to shoot him that many times," Anton Sr.'s girlfriend said "I feel that the police are trigger-happy. What's going on? Why are they shooting people for nothing?" "The suspect had his hands in his waistband area of his hooded sweat jacket," Vallejo police Lt. Ken Weaver insisted. "The suspect reached into his pocket & pulled out a dark-colored metal object." Kenney was given paid leave. Eventually, District Attorney Don du Bain concluded that Kenney was not criminally liable. Anton's wallet was black & similar in dimensions to the rear portion of a Glock semi-automatic handgun, he concluded, adding that "the events as they unfolded [...] posed an awful dilemma for the officers in this case. No one sought the tragic result that occurred." Recalling the events, Old Wilson Ave. resident Tarrie Wagner stated that she was watching TV when she heard "what sounded like pounding on my door, so I opened it, & the officer shouted, 'shut the door!,' & I said, 'someone knocked,' & he said, 'it wasn't us,' so, I shut the door." Moments later, she said, "I heard the shots. From where I was sitting, the police did everything right, God bless 'em."

February 12, 2013
Northville Township, Michigan

Gabriel Stevenson, age 18
attended Huron High in Ann Arbor;
on Friday the 9th, Erica Brooks
a former classmate who hadn't seen him
for half a year, said he "seemed
completely different. . . He didn't talk . . .
wouldn't make eye contact. It was almost like
he wasn't really there."

He lived with his parents
in Ypsilanti, where recently he'd been suspected
of starting fires in early December
near the home of a man his age
with whom he'd had "an incident."

Sometime before 2:00 on Wednesday morning
Gabriel parked his 1993 red Ford Ranger
on Napier just north of Six Mile Road.
He covered the license plate with a plastic bag
took a can of gasoline from the bed
doused a car just down the street
& set it alight.

Whoosh!

Gabriel ran
back to his truck & pulled away—
immediately he was followed
by Northville Township police
a routine patrol having spotted
his truck a few minutes before.

The police chased him some
seven miles before Gabriel
pulled over. Video footage
shows officers shouting a series
of questions as Gabriel searches
for his .22; when they ask Gabriel
to get out of the car he gets out
then turns & fires several shots
gets back into the car & takes off.

The second pursuit lasts several minutes
before Gabriel's car skids on the ice
slips through an intersection at Six Mile

and Dixboro roads
to crash into a house
where Annette Kovala & Kevin McGraw
awake in their bedroom, a few feet away.
Gabriel jumps from his truck
& breaks the bedroom window
hoping to seek access into the house.

The pursuing officers, now joined
by Michigan State Police, order him
to the ground. Officers fired four rounds
striking Gabriel at least once.
He turned around, “lunged” at them
with a knife, was shot a single time—
“ending the pursuit.”

Initial news reports of a car bomb were not correct. Gabriel's .22 was recovered from his truck. The shooting did not occur on video, as Gabriel & the officers were behind the police cruiser at that time. Public visitations were held Friday, February 22 at C&H Community Home for Funerals at Lucille's Memorial Chapel in Ypsilanti. Gabriel's funeral was held the next day at Christian Life Center Church, Pastor Henry J. Healey officiating.

February 20, 2013
Fort Wayne, Indiana

A little before 2:30 on Wednesday morning Stephen Wattle, 21, entered the CVS at E. State & Boulevard: a low brick building surrounded by parking lot across the street from an older strip mall—
STATE & BEACON PLAZA
& kitty-corner from Bowles Karate & Judo Academy.

Stephen pulled out a Romanian made semiautomatic Draco— a pistol version of the AK-47 reported stolen by its legal owner almost two years earlier. There is no report of whether or not he made off with cash or other loot.

Stephen fled the scene on foot— east on State, past the Western Union past the Subway—south on Hobson when Fort Wayne patrol officers caught up. They followed him into the Baldwin Creek Apartments— two-story brick compounds embedded within parking lots.

Stephen ran into a stairwell up to the second floor to discover it “boarded off” the officers at the bottom. He turned, the Draco in hand. Jeffery Burkholder shot him multiple times.

Stephen's funeral was held at noon Saturday, Feb. 23, at Carmichael Funeral Service. A prayer service was held at the Baldwin Creek Apartments on 2 March. An investigation held by the Fort Wayne Police Department & Indiana State Police ended a few days later, when the Allen County Prosecutor's Office ruled that Burkholder “was justified in using deadly force.”

March 4, 2013
Concord, North Carolina

At 22, Antony De'Sean Meeks
was sought for violating probation
stemming from convictions

for carrying a concealed weapon
possessing stolen goods
and resisting an officer.

The U.S. Marshals Service, FBI
and Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office
got a tip that Antony was at his home

at the 300 block of Freedom Street SW
where a brick-clad two-story tenement
squats between parking lots & dumpsters

tree-lined slopes & paths worn in the grass.
Shortly after arriving at 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday morning, violent fugitive

task force officers observed Antony
leaving through a back window
gun in hand. Multiple officers fired.

May 2, 2013
Oklahoma City

Clifton Armstrong, age 38
called 911 to report people
in his house trying to kill him.

A little later that Wednesday evening
around 9:00, according to Clifton's mother
Velencia Armstrong-Maiden

he hit the panic button she'd had installed
at 1421 NW 99th, a single-story a-frame
indistinguishable from its neighbors

among cropped lawns & Eco-friendly cars.
Family members say that Clifton was addicted
to meth. He got paranoid. "He did have the concern"

his mother said, "that he was going to be killed
and die in the hands of the police
and he did die in the hands of police.

Everything he was worried about, it happened."
His mother hoped that responding police & fire
department officers would get her son

a mental evaluation. Officers Jeffery Dutton
Gregory Franklin, Mohammed Tabaia
& Daniel Holtzclaw arrived in two teams.

The first two officers determined
that Clifton was delusional
& in need of emergency detention.

Clifton's mother & his grandmother
Jean Lawrence Griffin, helped the officers
escort him outside. Fearing the police

were coming to kill him, Clifton
stripped off his clothes. He "became combative."
The police detained his family

on the porch while they employed
a “maximum restraint hobble system.”
“It’s a belt system that straps around

[...] & connects the legs to the handcuffs”
X officer Nelson said.
“It keeps them from separating

their legs so they can’t kick or run.”
Jean kept going onto the porch
to try & see what was going on.

At some point, she says, her grandson
“stopped struggling.” Police told her
they were handling it. “I didn’t know

they were going to handle it to the death”
she said. EMS Paramedics performed CPR
but not before removing the lawn’s grass

from his nose, according to his sister
Brigette Armstrong. Clifton was rushed
to an area hospital, where he died.

The following January, Velencia filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Oklahoma County District Court. The suit names the officers, along with police Chief Bill City & Oklahoma City. Velencia alleges that officers used excessive force. Her suit alleges wanton & reckless conduct, intentional infliction of emotional distress & civil rights violations. Seeking more than \$75,000 in damages, she contends the police department inadequately investigates complaints, fails to adequately train its officers on the use of force & allows a permissive atmosphere in which illegal & unconstitutional behavior is tolerated. “My son is dead,” she said. “Yeah, I think something went wrong, badly wrong. I’m suspicious.” The officers who responded were placed on paid leave while investigators determine what exactly happened.

May 10, 2013
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Terrance Franklin, 22, was 5-10
173 pounds. Around 2:00pm Friday
he was seen—black t-shirt, red jeans—
moving things from an apartment
at 2743 Lyndale Ave., where tiny balconies
float above restaurants & a gallery.
A building manager called the cops.
“We have somebody who broke into a unit
and stole some stuff,” he said.
“They actually just came back.”
Ten minutes later, Sergeants Gerald Moore
and Kathy Smulski confronted Terrace
who was behind the wheel of a friend's
PT Cruiser, with an unnamed woman
and three children in the back seat.
The officers exited their vehicles
and drew their weapons. Moore
told Terrace to turn off the engine.
He took the keys out of the ignition
held them up. According to Moore
“he hesitated for 10 to 15 seconds.
By his behavior I felt that he was not
going to comply.” Terrace restarted the car
began to back up. Moore was aiming
when he heard a woman yell—
children in the car! “Prior to the female
making this statement I had made up my mind
to discharge my weapon,” he said.
Terrance drove two blocks down 28th
pulling over on a tree-lined street.
He ran north between large houses
to Flander's Cycle, one block north
near the apartments he'd just left.
At 2:18, he called the PT Cruiser's
owner, telling her where she could
find her car. When a squad car
pulled up, he fled a second time.
He forced open the back door of a nearby house
went into a second-floor closet
put on a blue robe he found there
then hid in the cellar. He called
several friends, at least one of whom

told him that the police had cordoned off the area. When their first search found nothing, they let some homeowners back in. One found his door open. Sgt. Andy Stender, officers Lucas Peterson Mark Durand, Ricardo Muro, Michael Meath & a police dog named Nash assembled outside the house. Stender yelled into it, threatening to unleash Nash. The dog led them to the closet, than the basement. They yelled down, telling Terrance to surrender. When he didn't, Stender sent Nash down, following him. The dog found Terrance wedged in an 18-inch-wide space between a water heater & the wall. He stood up, took off the robe and kicked Nash. Stender ordered him to show his hands, then punched Terrace in the face & struck him with a flashlight. Stender asked if anyone had a Taser. No one did. Meath tried to pull Terrance out. "Once I grabbed a hold of the suspect he immediately started thrashing [...]. While I was holding him I attempted to deliver two to three knee strikes [...] to his stomach & chest [...]. The suspect used my pulling momentum against me & exploded forward pushing me backwards." Terrance floundered into the middle of the basement. Durand fell backward into the laundry room. "As I was falling, I looked down and could see his finger was now inside the trigger well on my MP5," Durand told investigators. "I screamed 'He's got a gun! He's got a gun!' [...]. Two shots went off." Muro & Meath were struck. Stender dragged Muro to the base of the stairs while Durand struggled for control of his gun. A flashlight on the weapon turned on its beam falling on Peterson. "I reached out in the darkness," he testified

“and felt for his head. The suspect was still trying to work the weapon [...] I remember feeling the dreadlocks [...] & knew in the darkness where he was at. [...] I brought my handgun close to me [...]” Peterson fired four times. Meath lying on the floor near the stairs also fired. Terrance was hit eight or ten times in the neck & head. A bullet in his right armpit suggests that his hands were above his head.

A Hennepin County Grand Jury failed to bring criminal charges against the officers. “I continue to fully support the actions of my officers & agree with the decision of the Grand Jury,” Minneapolis police chief Janeé Harteau wrote. A series of protests drew hundreds to downtown Minneapolis. Demonstrators said the department's secrecy was aggravating long-held suspicion that some in the African-American community had toward law enforcement. They pointed out that no Hennepin County grand jury has chosen to bring criminal charges against police officers since 2000. The department neglected to check for residue on Franklin's hands & didn't interview some of the officers until weeks after the incident. In May 2014, Mike Padden, an attorney representing Terrace's parents, filed a civil lawsuit in U.S. District Court Friday, seeking compensatory & punitive damages of no less than \$2 million. “We feel very confident that we know exactly what happened in that basement,” Padden said, describing the killing as “execution style.” A cellphone video posted to Youtube by a private citizen records the officers using racial slurs & Franklin yelling for them to let him go. One officer can be heard saying “Don't go putting those hands up now.” “His hands were up in the air,” Padden said. “That's the kind of thing they would say, meaning, 'why didn't you give up in the beginning,' kind of a thing.” According to Sgt. John Delmonico, president of the Minneapolis Police Federation, “He is a criminal. He made the decisions that led to his demise that day. & these cops are the heroes in this story.” “I don't think there's this culture [of racism],” Delmonico said. “I think cops do an outstanding job. & to the people who disagree with me, if cops aren't getting hung at noon on Hennepin Avenue, then justice isn't being served.” Padden argues that the police ignored the video, “because they knew [...] that their SWAT members could be heard multiple times using the word 'nigger' & [...] did not want to take the PR hit.”

May 15, 2013
Clintonville, Ohio

Just after 5:00 am, Emmanuel Gatewood, 24 & Kourtney Hahn, 21, were in a gold GMC SUV on Foster Avenue, just south of Worthington. Kourtney, who lived on Karl road, drove. Emmanuel, who lived on Brentnell Ave. had spent nearly two years in prison for drug possession, a concealed weapon and robbery. Police wanted him for questioning in the murder of Lance Glenn.

Two patrol officers spotted the SUV & followed it onto N. High. When they ordered the driver to stop, Kourtney kept going. At Brighton & Hennepin one of them fired several shots.

Bullets pierced the lead patrol car shattering the glass. "I'm hit! I'm hit!" an officer yells. Their camera running they turn around, heading for a hospital. Five patrol cars can be seen following the SUV. "Should we go to OSU?" one officer asks. "No dude, let's go to Riverside," the other replies. At Riverside Methodist, they were treated for minor wounds caused by window glass.

Police dropped stop sticks at North High & Broadway. The SUV's tires blew; Kourtney careened another four blocks on North High before plowing through bushes into the parking lot of a fire station.

A patrol car camera reveals five of the eleven officers who advanced firing multiple rounds. Reuben Bailey delivering *The Columbus Dispatch* in his pickup truck, watched. "They were going in shooting; didn't use their cars for cover or anything like you see in the movies."

He heard what seemed like 100 bangs.
“There were so many shots. I knew
whoever it was, they’re gone,” he recalled.
“It was more than crazy.”

Seven officers fired multiple times.
Emmanuel & Kourtney were pronounced
dead at the scene

Two weapons were found in the SUV, including one with a high-capacity magazine. “This is a fine example of hours of boredom & seconds of terror,” said Sgt. Rich Weiner, spokesman for the Columbus Division of Police. Chief Kimberley Jacobs went to the hospital immediately after the shooting to check on the officers. She described them as acting “very professionally. I can’t be more proud of them. They’re working in the middle of the night to protect us.” The shooting came during National Police Week & a day before Columbus’ own annual vigil to remember officers who have died in the line of duty. “This was a very dangerous situation,” Weiner said. “We’re lucky the officers weren’t killed.” “Those cops were so brave — I gotta give it to them,” Bailey added.

May 25, 2013
Mount Morris Township, Michigan

Gary Hatcher, age 26, was a father of three with another on the way, A “loving” young man who enjoyed basketball & “shooting the breeze” according to his mother, Gertrude Hammond.

DeBorah McCaskill, a second cousin, described Gary as “very outgoing, friendly.” “Once you'd meet him” she said, “it's like you'd knew him for a long time. [He] loved to crack jokes & be around his family.”

Around 3:30 Saturday morning, Gary & his fiancée were pulled over for minor traffic violations by Michigan State Police. The stop took place near Ridgeway & Montrose in Flint: a desolate

intersection—empty plots, a parking lot ramshackle houses. Gary had been stopped in Flint the previous July for walking in the street. He'd fled police, who found an unlicensed gun.

He'd been arrested before & was not allowed to possess a firearm. When he failed a drug test and failed to return for another, police issued an arrest warrant, the charge being “non-compliance.”

While troopers were running their IDs, Gary took off on foot. He was soon caught; in the scuffle that followed, an unnamed trooper shot him.

Around 40 family members & friends attended a candlelight vigil at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 29 on the 200 block of East Eldridge Ave. They passed around balloons & a sheet of poster board with handwritten messages. “We are in need to bury him,” Gertrude said. “We are trying to raise some money to bury him. The police department should bury him, if they can't bury him, then don't shoot him.”

May 26, 2013
St. Louis, Missouri

William Aaron Dupree, 32, was “the gentle giant like my bigger brother, my bodyguard,” according to Precious Lee, who'd known him since eighth grade. Aaron was a St. Louis County corrections officer who'd worked about two years at the county jail. He was excited by a new assignment. On Monday he'd begin transporting inmates on medical furloughs which meant weekends off & more regular hours. He was engaged to be married to an unnamed woman. The wedding had been set for August, but pushed back for financial reasons, according to his best friend Rodney Smith. Rodney & Aaron had graduated together from Lewis & Clark College. With an associate's degree in criminal justice, Aaron headed to SIU Edwardsville to work on his BA. He'd also served in the Army, as an MP. On Sunday afternoon he invited Rodney to a barbecue at the home he shared with his fiancée & her two children ages 12 & 9, in the 2100 block of Farrar Avenue. Just after 6:00 pm, the children's father, James Little a 34-year-old off-duty Pagedale Reserve Officer arrived, planning to take them to a park. When the youngest told him that Aaron would want him to change his shoes, Little got mad. Instead of staying in the car like he normally did he went to the door & confronted his ex. “They were arguing over the children,” Smith said. “The children looked at Aaron as a father. They respect him. I guess it was just jealousy. [Little] didn't like the fact that they called him dad.” When Little became verbally abusive, Aaron asked him to leave. Saying he would kill Aaron, he shot him three times in the head, while his children watched.

When Smith arrived, he found his friend on the ground & Aaron's fiancée screaming. Little, standing in a neighbor's yard, called 911 & handed his gun to the responding officers. The next day, the St. Louis police filed first-degree murder & child-endangerment charges against Little worked as a Metro security officer, as well as for Pagedale. Two years earlier, he'd killed a 16-year-old. At the time, Little worked for the Beverly Hills police. He was off-duty the day he caught Jaleel Jackson trying to break into his home on Lotus Avenue. “Fearing for his safety,” he shot Jaleel in the head. He was found not guilty under the “Castle Doctrine,” which Missouri adopted in 2007.

June 17, 2013
Midwest City, Oklahoma

At 37, Sammie Lamont Wallace had a long history of mental illness. He'd spent the 2000s in a Texas prison. In January 2013, telling family he'd seen a ghost, he moved to Oklahoma taking up residence at the Parkview Apartments 2701 Turley Place, near Soldier Creek. He filled notebooks with religious writings. Around 3:00 on Monday afternoon he walked past the post office, fire station and City Hall, to the Walmart on Reno and Midwest Blvd. He pushed a cart talking on his cell. Surveillance video shows Sammie circling the aisles until he encounters Alicia Keating shopping for frozen foods while her daughters ages 12 & 2, wait by the cart. Sammie took the toddler in his arms & gave Keating his cell phone telling her to call a police officer in Dallas. Alicia screams & follows him; unfolding a pocket knife, Sammie holds it near the girl. "Please help me he's got my baby, he's got my baby please help me," Keating said.

The Midwest City Police Department is across the street; officers arrive within a minute. They evacuate the store & negotiate with Sammie for more than half an hour. They contacted the officer in Texas; he told them Sammie had been harassing him. Sammie wanted them to call his attorney. He demanded to be able to see his own children. "He's basically saying things like, he wants to see his kids he wants his kids too. He just wants to go home to see his family. He has nothing to live for, nothing to lose" Donita Owens told reporters. He also spoke about the Illuminati.

Seeking a “tactical advantage” officers offered Sammie a chair. He took it, but became agitated as the girl began to squirm. He moved the knife from her abdomen to her neck & began counting backward from 60. Midwest Police Capt. David Huff walked up to Sammie, put his gun against his head, fired a single shot.

The child was not injured. The Oklahoma County district attorney said the shooting was justified, & hailed Capt. Huff as a hero. “It wasn't making any sense what he was saying, he had a weapon in his hand, a knife up against the child, threatening the child's life,” Assistant Chief of Police Sid Porter, said. “I've been doing this 29 years. I can't remember something like this, a random act in a grocery store with all these people,” he added. The Walmart was open for business later that day.

June 20, 2013
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Kenneth Dewayne Cooper, 45
got into an argument with four neighbors
at 2408 NE 26th Street, where small houses
sit at the far end of neatly trimmed lawns.
Kenneth went to get his rifle
& someone called the cops.

Sgt. Daniel Godsil, a 10-year veteran
of the OCPD arrived first.
Kenneth walked toward them
down 26th from Creston Drive.
He leveled his rifle at them
& fired several rounds.

Godsil returned fire. Kenneth fled
several blocks down Creston
toward 23rd, when, dropping the rifle
he was apprehended by another officer.
He was talking as he was loaded
into an ambulance, but died en route
or shortly after arriving at OU Medical Center.

June 24, 2013
Bedford Heights, Ohio

Omar Arrington-Bey, 38 was on the wrestling team at Shaker Heights High graduating in 1993. Former classmates recall a warm & generous man with a kind smile. Later he suffered an undisclosed psychiatric condition. He took medication, worked at the Lowe's on Miles road where I-271 meets 480. Sometime—weeks or days—before, he'd quit taking his pills.

About 9:20 Monday morning Omar learned was fired. He reacted rashly, throwing four one-gallon cans of deck stain on the floor knocking over another. He toppled several shelves of merchandise, then left riding in his mother's car. The police stopped her arrested Omar for disorderly conduct, criminal damage. They described his antics as a “rampage.” They say he never stopped talking from the time he was placed in the squad car until he was admitted to Bedford Heights jail. “He was rambling & ranting and raving about every possible topic he could think of.” Nine hours later around 6:40, Omar was involved in an altercation with the guards. Police wouldn't reveal details of the fight, save that they found Omar on top of & choking two corrections officers at once.

Eventually, they freed them from Omar's grasp, handcuffed him then placed him in a restraint chair.

Omar suffered a heart attack. He lost consciousness. Paramedics took him to Bedford Medical Center He wasn't revived.

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation & the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is investigated. Omar's death was ruled a homicide. Further investigations continue: did officers at the Bedford Heights violate any rules or laws?

July 11, 2013
Reno, NV

Kenneth Jewel Stafford, 27
graduated from Washoe High in 2003;
he enlisted in the Army six years later.
A helicopter mechanic in the 1st Battalion
229th Aviation Regiment, he deployed to Iraq
in February 2011 returning the next December.
He was on leave from Fort Lewis
the second week in July, visiting
his wife Aimee, his daughters, & his mom.

His mother, Terry A. Colgrove, recalled
that during Kenny's first week back in Reno
cops pulled over several times. With Travon Martin
in the news & firework displays every night,
he "kept getting angrier & angrier.
I have never seen him so angry," she said.
"I didn't know what PTSD was
until he came home & I looked it up.
I asked his wife what was going on
and she told me about it, but she didn't know
what it was. Here she is, living with him
seeing the changes, & she didn't know what it was."

Kenny was on the phone with his doctor
four or five times a day. Then his phone broke.
By the morning of the 11th, he'd been up
for about 72 hours. Come lunch time
he seemed calm, watching a movie with his girls.

Around 1:30, he showed Aimee a shotgun.
When she freaked out he got mad, left the house
heading down Wedekind Road. Aimee
called his mother, then 9-1-1.

Sparks Police Department officers found Kenny
three blocks from home, in a sandy field
near the trim back yards of Belcrest Circle
a suburban division of single story bungalows.

Five officers confronted him.
Terry drove to where they were.
She told the cops she'd talk to him

but, lying, they said a military negotiator was with him. She recalls how a cop ran up, saying Kenny wanted a cigarette. She gave him one.

He was half-way back when, in the words of Sparks Police Chief Brian Allen Kenny turned “quickly [...] in a manner such as to point the shotgun at them.” All five cops “reacted simultaneously” firing 22 shots, of which 14 hit Kenny: in the ankle, knee, thigh abdomen, chest, neck & forehead.

According to Allen, 11 minutes transpired from the time contact was made until “negotiations weren’t successful.” All five officers were put on routine administrative leave. The following June, Washoe County District Attorney Richard Gammick declared their shooting justified: “The fact that all the officers on scene perceived the same thing at the same moment [implies that] they all took independent & justifiable actions,” Allen explained. Aimee disagreed. “I don’t see anything about that situation that was justifiable, um he was shot 15, 14 or 15 times.” There’s no need for that at the places he was shot, there’s no need for that.” “The officers have to make a call,” Gammick said, “Unless you’ve worn the badge, unless you’ve been out there & confronted people with weapons, you don’t understand that those decisions are made in split seconds, it’s not something you can 20/20 hindsight & spend the next four months analyzing.” All five officers were awarded for their action.

July 11, 2013
Hazelwood, Missouri

Antonio Johnson, 40, of Glasgow Village was a father of three. Around 9:00 Thursday night he was on his way to pick up his wife, LaTasha from her job. It was their 14th wedding anniversary. Driving southbound on old Charbonier road a rural two-lane fields giving way to trees as you cross Cowmire Creek, Antonio was observed crossing the yellow. One officer was initially involved. When Antonio resisted arrest, two additional officers flew to the scene. During the ensuing struggle according to HPD Captain Ken Jewson one officer suffered a bruised elbow and scrapes to his arms & knees. Antonio suffered severe kidney & lung damage he required a ventilator to breathe. He was scraped & cut on his head his wrists scabbed by handcuffs. He was taken to DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton where he died on Thursday afternoon.

LaTasha said her husband may have been drinking, but wouldn't have been on drugs. "I know he didn't do anything to be treated like this," she said. The day after his death, the police promised a thorough investigation. The three male officers were put on paid administrative leave. "I'm still confident that they'll be cleared as soon as we get the toxicology reports & the medical examiner's reports," Jewson said. He said the department has requested the help of the St. Louis County Police Department. "We want to be completely thorough. We don't want to show any bias," he said. "There are a lot of unanswered questions & we want to get to the bottom of it," LaTasha said. "We're not going to leave a stone unturned," Jewson said.

July 15, 2013
Little Rock, Arkansas

At 26, Deon Williams
had done two & a half years.
At 21, he'd served six months
on a three-year sentence
for "manufacture & delivery
fraud & possession."

Three years later, he served
two years out of ten
for "manufacturing & distribution."
As of May 29 he was out on parole.

Shemedia Shelton loaned him
her black Chevy Suburban.
Deon was her husband
or a former boyfriend
according to family friends.

Twenty minutes before noon
Terry McDaniel (age) & Grant Humphries
a five-year veteran of the LRPD
were cruising near 12th & Jonesboro
a leafy part of the neighborhood
where War Memorial Park
faces Redeemed for Christ Academy.

Passing Deon, they punched
the plate number. Expired. They decided
the vehicle matched the description
of one they had seen on the LRPD
stolen vehicle alert sheet.

They drove past Deon
then pulled over to watch him pass.
Instead, he pulled over behind them.
McDaniel & Humphries decided
to turn around & make contact.

Turning, they observed Deon
exit the driver's side of the Suburban.
He walked away. One of the officers
"observed a bulge in his waistband"

thought Deon was trying “to conceal something.” They asked him to walk over to their vehicle. Deon, driving on a suspended license & knowing, according to Shemedia what violating parole meant ran.

McDaniel chased him on foot; Humphries in the car. McDaniel caught up with Deon in a backyard between Jefferson & Adams. Rounding the corner of one of the small residences among the neighborhood's tree-lined streets, McDaniel saw a gun fall from Deon's waistband. He dropped the taser he'd been carrying to draw his gun. Gathering the weapon up, Deon looked back. Witnesses report hearing five to eight shots. Deon's gun wasn't fired.

A crowd of more than 200 formed soon after the shooting. Some held signs reading “Justice for Bobby Moore.” Some yelled profanities. Others said, “Stop killing our young men.” A few cans & bottles were thrown in the direction of officers. One man threw tea & an empty can on the door of a gas station that locked its doors. Another man shouted, “Fuck America! That's how I feel.” Dozens of officers responded. They established a staging area two miles away for fast response in case extra police became necessary. Prosecuting Attorney Larry Jegley, LRPD Chief Stuart Thomas & the police department's chaplain visited the scene. A woman who identified herself as Chastity Duffy walked along the south side of 12th Street, supporting a sobbing woman. “We just picked him up from Tucker two months ago,” Duffy said. “He was just trying to do what was right for his wife & kids. He didn't do nothing.” “You didn't have to kill him,” the sobbing woman said. “Trayvon wasn't enough? You didn't have to fucking kill him. You didn't have to kill him. You didn't have to fucking kill him. Fucking pigs. Motherfucking pigs. Just because we're in the ghetto?” “Can anybody tell me what I'm supposed to tell my kids?” she asked. A spokesperson for the NAACP used a police loudspeaker to ask the crowd to send their children home, in case the situation escalated. He invited them to a vigil in honor of Trayvon at 8:30 that evening in front of the State Capitol. At 3:00, police tried to make the crowd, an “unlawful assembly,” disperse. Few left. Around 3:45, the police withdrew. An hour later, only 30 to 40 protesters remained, far less vocal. Another hour & the place was empty. “They have so many new laws now regarding those suspended licenses...he was just scared,” Shemedia said. McDaniel, 25, was first identified only in terms of race: an African American. Later it was revealed that he'd used deadly force at least once before. Both officers were given administrative leave.

Two separate investigations have been initiated. The first, conducted by the Department's Major Crimes Division, will be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office when complete; the second, conducted by the Department's Professional Standards Section, is charged with determining whether the officers involved acted in accordance with policies.

July 26, 2013
Austin, Texas

Larry Jackson, Jr., age 32
was father to two girls & a boy
who lived with their mother
Alexandria Gladney, in Mississippi.

Around 4:00 in the afternoon
Larry tried the front door of
Benchmark Bank at W. 35th Street
on the corner of MLK Blvd.

between the U.T. Austin campus
and the Shoal Creek trail, a low
late-modernist building bordered
by parking lot & green margins.

The door was locked. Larry walked
around the building, came back
to try again. The bank was closed
because it had been robbed

at 8:19 that Friday morning
and Austin police detective
Charles Kleinert was inside
conducting an investigation.

Bank manager Sheila Bostik
opened the door to talk
to Larry, who “identified himself
in a manner in which the bank manager

recognized was not an accurate
identification,” in the words
of Brian Manley, assistant chief
of the APD. Kleinert went out

to question Larry; a bank security
camera shows Kleinert asking
Larry to sit on concrete planters
by the parking lot. Larry sits

rises, sits, then takes off
across the parking lot. Kleinert
a 26-year veteran on the force
was in no shape to follow.

Regina Bethune was leaving
her office next door when Kleinert
commandeered her car. *The male
was breathless & agitated*

she stated; *he yelled “Go go go”
and “follow him” multiple times.
He seemed very out of control [. . .]
I realized that either way*

*I needed to remain calm
and help him try to calm down. [. . .]
He did not tell me his name
or offer any explanation*

as to what was going on.
A few minutes later, they saw
Larry walking on the sidewalk
near the 35th street bridge;

“That's him!” Kleinert shouted;
*I was confused at this point
Regina testified, & asked the male
in my vehicle, “Is he dangerous?”*

The male yelled back, “No!”
Kleinert exited the car; Regina
drove off to call the police.
Kleinert caught up with Larry

beneath the bridge; in the scuffle
he accidentally discharged his gun
killing Larry with a single shot
through the back of the neck.

Kleinert's prosecution was the first time in a decade that a Travis County grand jury charged an officer in an on-duty shooting. More than two dozen people sat in the courtroom Judge David Wahlberg read the indictment. Billie Mercer, Jackson's mother, told reporters she hoped for justice, though there would never be closure for her or her family. "I can't get my son back, but I can try to send him to jail," she said. The family's lawyer, Adam Loewy, called the day historic. He commended the D.A. for bringing forth manslaughter, but said the charge should be murder. "When the public sees the evidence in this case, they will see how horrific this is," he said. Wayne Vincent, president of the Austin Police Association, hoped the case would not be tried in the courts or on the streets. "I hope this does not get turned into a big political football," he said.

August 23, 2013
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

At 2:00am Friday, Edmund Fair, 24 was at the Brooklyn Center Motel 6; BCPD officers Ryan Solidan & Kate Deering responded to a complaint—unruly guests too much noise. They observed Edmund drive his girlfriend's van, four friends inside onto Shingle Creek Parkway, near the entrance to I-694. They pulled him over.

Soliday asked Edmund for identification. He asked him if he had any outstanding warrants. "I don't know, I probably do," Edmund said.

Soliday ordered Edmund out of the vehicle.

Audio footage records Edmund pleading with the officers, don't take me to jail. As Solidan attempts to cuff him Deering tells him he'll be Tased if he doesn't comply. When he fails to do so, Solidan wraps his arms around Edmund's upper body & neck. Deering fires several darts into him; the charge carries into her partner. Solidan pulled Edmund from the van & shot him in the chest shouting, "Shots fired! shots fired.!"

Soliday's attorney, Paul Rogosheskes said that Edmund wasn't fully cuffed & that he grabbed one a Taser & shocked both officers. Solidan told authorities he saw Edmund reaching for Deering's gun. Footage from the car's interior camera showed fleeting signs of the struggle. Rogosheske characterized the off-camera action as Solidan engaged in "a life-or-death struggle." Solidan was placed on paid administrative leave. A grand jury found no evidence that either officer did anything illegal. Edmund's mother, Elizabeth, filed a civil suit in federal court, alleging that Solidan's use of excessive force resulted in a wrongful death. Based on eye-witness accounts, Edmund was handcuffed when he was tasered & shot. Commander Brian Peters of the Brooklyn Center Police Department declined to comment. U.S. District Court Judge David Doty ruled that Solidan was justified in using deadly force. Rogosheske said, "I feel for the family of the victim, but this was a good shoot." Solidan, recipient of five Chief's Certification of Commendations & a Merit of Achievement award, was placed on paid administrative leave, which is standard procedure.

September 1, 2013
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina

Jonathan A. Ferrell, 24 years old was a safety for Florida A&M during the 2009-10 season; his twin Willie also played: the Rattler won their first six games straight, lost only three the entire season.

Jonathan majored in chemistry with a 3.7 GPA; he was nicknamed “the shepherd”: he looked out for those around him. An “everyday American,” according to his family. “Such an innocent person,” Willie said “He was trying to live the American dream.”

He’d left his family home in Tallahassee for Charlotte, where his fiancée—Caché Heidel, girlfriend since high school—had found work as an accountant. Jonathan took classes at Johnson C. Smith University juggling two retail jobs while they worked out their dream.

Around 2:00 in the morning, after dropping a co-worker off at home in a northeast Charlotte neighborhood he crashed his Toyota Camry into trees & brush. The crash was bad enough he had to crawl into the backseat & kick out a rear window. His cellphone lost he stumbled a half-mile to Reedy Creek Road. The first house he found was a stately brick two-story.

Sarah McCartney opened the door thinking it was her husband. When she saw Jonathan she shut it quickly, hit the home security system’s panic button & called 911. “I need help,” she told the dispatcher;

“there’s a guy breaking into my front door
he’s trying to kick it down.”
Through tears she tells the dispatcher
that her husband works nights
but owns guns but she can’t find them.
“Oh my God,” she says over & over.
“He’s in the front yard yelling.”
“Turn the alarm off!” Jon called
then walked back to the road.

Eleven minutes later, 27-year-old
Randall Kerrick & two other
CPD officers pulled up to the house.
McCartney, still on the line, says
“Oh, please let them get him.”

Jon ran up from the road, toward
the officers & the house. The three
of them shouted at him, “On the ground!
On the ground!” but he continued forward.
One fired a taser, which malfunctioned.
When that didn’t work, Kerrick
fired 12 high velocity rounds;
the dashcam audio records the bursts:
four shots, a pause; six more shots
another pause; two final shots—
all but two entering the Shepherd’s
arms & torso from above.

Charlotte-Mecklenberg police initially called Kerrick’s actions “appropriate & lawful,” but within hours reversed their position, charging him with voluntary manslaughter, or “imperfect self-defense.” He turned himself in & was on \$50,000 bond. The first grand jury refused to indict Kerrick, asking for a “lesser or related” charge; it was the first time in 277 cases the members rejected. A second grand jury was soon convened & Kerrick became the first CPD officer indicted for an on-duty shooting in more than 30 years. Protests erupted & the Charlotte NAACP assisted with the case. “The officer is white, Mr. Ferrell is black,” Chris Chestnut, the Ferrell family’s attorney, said. “I think this is more of a reflection of where we are as a country. That perhaps we need to stop, pause, regardless of race & become more sympathetic to each other. We’re entertaining saving Syria , perhaps we need to save ourselves. Let’s look inward first.” On May 14, 2015 the Charlotte City Council unanimously approved a \$2,250,000 settlement that contained no admission of fault by anyone. Charlotte City Attorney Bob Hagemann said, “While we realize that money is an inadequate means of compensating Mr. Ferrell’s family, we feel that this was a fair & equitable settlement.” He added that the settlement would not affect the annual budget.

September 5, 2013
Mobile, Alabama

On September 3rd, Kenneth Lamar Bedgood 36, killed Gary Demetrius House while he was fishing at his favorite spot and stole his white Acura Integra Sedan. A bulletin was sent out warning police to be on the lookout for the stolen car.

On Thursday morning, Prichard Police spotted the car; a high-speed chase ensued. At 11:19 a.m., Mobile Police responded to a request for assistance as Ken headed south on I-65, into their jurisdiction. They followed the Acura onto Highway 90 then Azalea Road. Less than a block from the murder site, Ken pulled onto a grassy margin & ran toward the Montlimar apartments. Twice he turned to fire at pursuing officers who returned fire.

September 7, 2013
Chicago, Illinois

Around 6:00 Saturday morning, Marlon Horton age 28, went to visit his girlfriend, Rhonda Day at the Henry Horner Homes, 1815 W. Monroe where she'd spent the night with her mom.

The security guard at the front desk wouldn't let Marlon upstairs & his cellphone was dead. He lay down on a couch in the lobby. Around 6:30, Shaquila Moore, a guard employed by Maverick Security, Inc. (black jeans, White Sox hoodie, take-out coffee in hand) woke Marlon & told him to leave. He complied, then relieved himself on a white SUV parked near the door. "He is not fucking pissing," Moore said as she went out to confront him, followed by off-duty CPD officer Kenneth Walker who was moonlighting as security and whose SUV it happened to be.

CHA surveillance video shows Walker (white t-shirt, black jeans) confront Marlon (white jeans, green & white shirt & cap). They exchange words, Moore nearby. When Marlon walks toward her Walker, from behind, kicks his leg. Marlon turns, fists clenched; they square off on the sidewalk. Walker throws a karate kick; Marlon catches it they scuffle the unnamed guard joining in. Marlon flings Walker to his knees and gets some space between them. Walker & the guard both draw guns and the three move in a shifting triangle around the parking lot. The guns don't intimidate Marlon much; he walks toward first one than the other, shouting. He gives words for at least a minute and the situation appears to defuse— Walker can be seen shifting his gun casually, as he checks his pocket

adjusts sunglasses. But a moment later
as Marlon walks toward Walker again
Walker fires, a single shot to the chest.

During the initial investigation, Walker claimed that he & Moore never initiated physical contact & that Marlon was killed while lunging at him. On September 3, 2014, following release of the security footage on the website Live Leak, Marlon's family filed a civil rights lawsuit against Walker & Moore, the City of Chicago, the CPD, the CHA, Maverick Security & H.J. Russell & Company, which manages the building. According to Jeffrey Granich, an attorney for the family, the lawsuit includes claims of excessive force, failure to intervene, conspiracy, wrongful death & battery. Following the shooting, neither Walker nor Moore made any attempt to stop the bleeding. Regarding the video, Marlon's brother Jarrod said, "It was tough to watch. The reaction is just a lack of compassion. I think regardless of the circumstances, they didn't have to kill him." The Chicago Independent Police Review Authority is investigating.

**September 7, 2013
Pine Bluff, Arkansas**

107 years old, Monroe Isadore
had three sons, seven daughters
27 grandchildren, 66 great-grandchildren.
He'd been excited about moving
out of the house he was living in
temporarily. But when Laurie Barlow
showed up that Saturday afternoon
Monroe barricaded himself. After
4:00 in the afternoon, someone called
the police. Officers escorted Barlow
& one of Monroe's granddaughters
across the street. They approached his door;
he fired. A SWAT team was called.
They maneuvered a camera into the house
observing that he held a handgun.
Monroe's granddaughter got him
to open the door, but his gun was raised.
The SWAT team deployed gas
& a distraction device, then stormed.
When Monroe fired, the entry team shot back.
At 7:23, Deputy Coroner Eric Belcher
pronounced Monroe dead
of multiple gunshot wounds.

An officer involved in the shooting has been placed on paid administrative leave. The shooting prompted questions from residents, city leaders, & multiple public forums. Judge Judge Berlin Jones barred law enforcement officers from releasing any more information. Records relating to an investigation will be sealed, he declared. He appointed special prosecutor Jason Barrett & special deputy prosecutor Jack McQuary to investigate police's use of force. Barrett said that neither he nor McQuary will talk publicly. "This matter is one that has garnered the attention of numerous individuals & agencies & must be handled professionally without the distractions of inquiries, innuendo, & misleading information coming from sources who were not there & do not know the facts," Paula Aguilar, Monroe's youngest daughter, said that her father supported the local police. "For that to be who shot & killed him, that doesn't sit right with me." "I would get people who would come up to me," she added, "and say, 'Girl, I met your daddy. I went over there, & I sat down & talked to him & we'd talk for hours because you know he could talk about the Lord all the time.'" "Why did they shoot him? Why did they not contact the family? Why did they not give him time?" his daughter asked. Lawrence Walker, the family's attorney, filed charges against the city. "We're hoping to get this case in front of a federal jury & get justice for the family," he said.

September 29, 2013
Asheville, North Carolina

Alexander Jamar Alexander, age 19
graduated from AC Reynolds
where he played football for the Rockets.

Around 7:30 Sunday evening, officers
responded to a burglary in progress
at a house in Camelot, a subdivision
along King Arthur place in West Asheville
near where Gawain St. meets Lancelot Lane.

AJ was spotted leaving the house
“gun in hand” according to unnamed
police, who ordered to stop.
He did not. He ran into the woods
near the Meadows Apartments
a sequence of three-storey apartments
on (according to their website) “33 lush acres
with large shade trees that provide
fantastic picnic areas,” with 2 pools
2 tennis courts, a business center
a fitness center & a car wash.
For about an hour, officers searched
for AJ; he emerged from the woods
on Leicester Highway; a friend
who happened to be at a stoplight
witnessed the final act: “I see
a whole bunch of cops chasing after
and see him come out of the bushes
down by the light, & saw him
put his hands up. & then, in maybe
two seconds I heard a bang.”

A funeral for the son of Nicola Smith Mouney & the late Danny Earl Marion was held on Tuesday, October 8, the Rev. John W. Brewster officiating. AJ was buried in Sunset Cemetery. Ten months after the shooting, District Attorney Ron Moore determined that the officer was justified in his use of force.

**October 4, 2013
Waycross, Georgia**

Jack Lamar Roberson, age 43
was a disabled Navy veteran
of the first Gulf War. Neighbor
Bernara Benson described him
as “a nice man who never caused any trouble.”

A little after 4:00 on Friday afternoon
Lamar’s fiancée, Alicia Herron, called 911.
She wanted an ambulance. Lamar, who
suffered from diabetes, was drinking
and had swallowed “a couple of big handfuls”
of prescription benzodiazepine.
He knocked over the refrigerator
and smashed the TV. “Is he suicidal?”
the dispatcher asked. Alicia replied:
“He says he wants to die, but I don’t know.”

Around 4:30, officer Casey Caswell
and Lt. Scott Rowell were let in;
Lamar’s mom, Diane & eight-year-old daughter
Zelphia, were also home when they entered
the living room. Lamar came out
of the kitchen. According to police reports
he held a grilling fork & knife.
They yelled at him to drop the weapons.
Alicia & Diane insist upon
a different version of events:

“They just came in & shot him,”
Alicia said. “He didn’t say nothing
the police didn’t say nothing, anything—
it was like a silent movie. You couldn’t hear
anything, all you could hear
were the gun shots go off & I seen them
going into his body & he just fell down.”

According to Diane: “I was here—
and my son was coming from the kitchen.
He saw the officer over there. The officer
didn’t say anything. My son raised his hands.
The officer took his gun, fired—
one, two, three. I heard four shots.

My son fell. Nothing in his hands.”

Waycross Police Chief Tony Tanner said the officers had “no choice” but to fire after Lamar, “aggressively armed with two items used as weapons,” “lunged” at them. Over 100 people gathered in the neighborhood to condemn their actions. Upon reviewing the case, Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney Bradley Collins said personal audio recorders confirmed that the officers had warned Lamar to drop a knife. “It’s an unfortunate incident,” Collins said. “But the recording doesn’t take sides. It is what it is.” According to Charles Chestnut, a lawyer hired by the family, “There was a litany of other options to running into the house with guns drawn & the minute somebody shows himself, shoot him.”

October 15, 2013
Eufaula, Alabama

Cameron Massey, age 26
had fathered three daughters
with three more, including twins
on the way. His mother Jacqueline
says he'd had run-ins with the law
regarding marijuana possession
but didn't own a gun. "I fussed at him
a lot, that's just what mothers do"
she said. "He was very respectful...
He would help anybody.
I have never seen him with a weapon.
That's just not his character."

At 4:40 in the afternoon
Cameron was riding in Josh Kelly's
black M-35 Infinity on Highway 431.
Two officers—one possibly the Chief—
pulled Kelly over for a traffic violation.
He stopped in the parking lot
of 431 South Wrecker Service
on a desolate stretch of road—
trees, dilapidated trailer homes.

Cameron phoned his stepfather
John Jackson, asking for the mayor's number.
He sounded scared. "Whatever went down
whatever he saw, it must have frightened him"
Jackson said. "Cameron called the Mayor.
That's the last thing I know he did."

Eyewitnesses say an officer approached
the Infinity, grappled briefly with Cameron
through the window & fired four shots
striking him in the head, neck & chest.

Police did not initially contact the family, who learned of Cameron's death from friends. "Nobody has called me, nobody talked to me at the hospital. I don't know who shot him. What transpired up until that happened?" his mother asked reporters a few days after the event. In a brief statement, Mayor Jack Tibbs said the officers feared for their lives after Cameron caused the vehicle to accelerate. Bullock County District Attorney Investigator Lee Hamm swore an arrest warrant on Joshua Kelly for Trafficking In Marijuana. A huge crowd turned out for Massey's funeral at the Community Center in Eufaula. Edward DuBose, board member of the NAACP, said "It's going to get bigger before it gets smaller. Information is coming in to us." DuBose said a person in law enforcement is helping gather information. "This is going to be scrutinized at every level," he said. Jacqueline said, "The cops get away with a lot of stuff, & it's a cover up. But when they stopped the camera should have been rolling ... I want to see all this stuff that they say that they have. I want justice done, & the one who shot him I want him brought before a judge & a jury. I want them prosecuted to the fullest, & I'm not going to rest until it happens."

November 22, 2013
Grove City, Ohio

Danny Thornton, 47, had represented the Sawyer Reaction Center in Columbus-area boxing matches. He'd fought professionally. He'd been charged with disorderly conduct & assault on several occasions. He was in the local papers in February 2000 when he won a \$10,000 settlement for being inappropriately detained by police.

On Friday morning, he left a North Side motel. At 7:30 he knocked on the door of 2716 Independence Way a two-story duplex where an ex-girlfriend lived with their 17-year-old son, Jarid Fitzpatrick and 9-year-old Jaiden Dixon. Preparing to leave for Monterey Elementary, Jaiden opened the door. Danny shot him in the face. His son called the police. He can be heard saying, "Stay with me Jaiden. Come on buddy. Come on buddy. Come on Jaiden. Open your eyes Jaiden." He told the police, "Listen he wants suicide by cop."

Danny drove to Mark Pitts' Dental office 4409 Crossroads Center, where Vicki Vertin the mother of his 18-year-old daughter worked as a dental hygienist. At 8:01 he found her in the lobby. "Haven't seen you in a while," he said. Then he shot her.

Back in his car a blue Toyota Camry, he called two acquaintances confessed & said he wasn't going back to jail.

Around 9:45, Grove City police & the FBI spotted him parked outside the Walmart across from Easton Town Center. Two squad cars were used to box him in. Three SWAT officers—Lawrence Brown, Glenn Thivener & Steve Smith approached. Danny got out & raised his gun.

According to Sgt. Rich Weiner, CPD. "We don't have to wait for the suspect to fire. If he raises that weapon in a threatening manner, the officers can go ahead & use deadly force." Smith was hit by shrapnel in the abdomen & hip. He was released from the OhioHealth Grant Medical Center the next day. Jaiden Dixon was kept alive until his organs could be donated. "What kind of person shoots a nine-year-old boy in the face? What kind of person can live?" his brother Jarid lamented. "He's never done anything to nobody. He's one of the happiest kids. He wanted everybody to love him." Vertin was taken to Grant Medical Center in critical condition; she survived.

**December 2, 2013
Columbus, Ohio**

Jonathan D. Rodgers, 22, lived in Dayton. He was visiting friends on the first weekend in December. Around 2:00 Monday morning he was among 200 patrons in Charlie Bear: Land of Dance a nightclub on Olentangy River Road, near Ohio State. There was some kind of argument. Jonathan told friends he was going outside to “take care of business.”

He got a gun from his car & shot at an unidentified man.

Officers Kareem Kashmiry & Patrick Daugherty working special duty at the University City Center plaza witnessed the event. They shot Jonathan multiple times.

Jonathan's aunt, Falonda Rodgers was stunned. “We’re in disbelief,” she said. “It sounds like we’re talking about somebody else. This does not sound like Jonathan at all.” The club had moved from its previous South Campus Gateway location in late October. “There had been several safety issues & security instances over the course of the last couple of years that we had tried to address with Charlie Bear,” said Amanda Hoffsis, president of Campus Partners for Community Urban Redevelopment, a private nonprofit corporation that works on community planning in the Ohio State campus area. Club owner Ted Lawson said he was “told by [Campus Partners] that, in fact, they didn’t want Charlie Bear, because one, they don’t like the image. Two, they didn’t like the type of people I was bringing in. They felt that the image that Charlie Bear was giving the area was not good.” Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Josh Ahart said “I trust (that) the Columbus Police & the officers there did their job correctly, I don’t think there’s any doubt about that.” John Miller, a second-year in aerospace engineering major stated, “If you’re going to have bars like that, I mean, there’s not much you can do. I don’t know what to do to prevent it, people are going to do crazy stuff. It just happens.” Officer Jason Pappas, president of Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge No. 9, wondered “why they think it’s OK to point a gun at a cop. It’s never going to turn out good for you.”

**December 12, 2013
Columbus, Ohio**

Kenneth R. Herring, 50, had recently been released from prison after doing five-years for aggravated robbery. He was “going through the motions of getting his life together” according to Pastor Frederick LaMarr of Family Missionary Baptist Church. He'd been in a relationship with Richell Dixon. She was trying to break it off. Around 9:00 Thursday night he entered her home in the 1100 block of Lockbourne Road. He asked Richell if she still loved him. She said no. Kenneth shot her twice, in the mouth. She lay still, until he left, then crawled upstairs to her mother.

Officers responded to the scene. Just after midnight, they received a report that Kenneth was on the front porch of a house at 17th Street near Beck a narrow, snow-covered lane of two-story red brick homes. Plainclothes officers staked out the scene; five uniformed cops—Nathan Amstutz, Kevin Halbur, Garrett Kennedy Kevin Reed & Anthony Richardson—shot Kenneth multiple times.

Police & family members said they thought Kenneth may have wanted to die rather than return to prison. Richell was taken to Grand Medical Center in critical condition but made a full recovery.

**December 27, 2013
Okmulgee, Oklahoma**

Anthony Darnell King, 22, left the Carver Transitional Center a non-secure half-way house in Oklahoma City, while doing time for assault & possession of a stolen vehicle. His sentences ran until November 2016. According to Carver Center COO Brian Costello, Darnell told a roommate he “was out of there.”

A little after 8:00 Friday morning he attempted a kidnapping/robbery in the 400 block of N. Central Ave. He assaulted a woman & her child as they entered their vehicle in this neighborhood of large houses long driveways & big fences.

At 6:45 that afternoon, off-duty highway patrol officer John Marion an eight-year veteran of the force was in his garage on 2nd street less than a block from the first incident.

Darnell pointed a gun at him and asked for his belongings. Marion led him upstairs, where he shot Darnell at least once.

Marion called police. They found Darnell unresponsive. He died in surgery at a local hospital.

Marion was placed in administrative leave while the Oklahoma City police homicide unit investigated the incident.

**January 3, 2014
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Joeshawn Edward Williams, 21, had two kids—Ja'Shyia & Joeshawn, Jr. His partner's name was Olivia Brown. On the first Friday of the new year he was visiting from New Orleans. Around 12:15 that afternoon, someone dropped him off at the 7-11 on Western & Hefner, a gas-station surrounded by strip malls. According to Alexis Ballard, who “eye-balled” Joeshawn for “walking slow,” “the next thing I know the cop pulled up & was asking him questions.”

Sgt. Jimmy Cortez had begun his shift a noon. His assignment: look for criminal activity. A few minutes earlier he'd sent a message: “looks like it's going to be an easy day.”

He & Lt. Larry Northcutt approached Joeshawn. “I got out of my car & ordered him to the ground” Cortez said. “And I could see him pulling at the gun belt and I thought ‘God, is this kid really going to do this? I already had my weapon out, & I thought surely he won't do this.’”

Joeshawn ran cutting across the busy intersection, nearly hit by a car. Cortez followed on foot. “It just broke loose,” he recalls. “It was suspect on the ground suspect running.”

Joeshawn ran behind an abandoned building across the street. Pulling a pistol from his jacket, he fired at Cortez several times, hitting him in the leg.

Facing “the biggest barrel I have ever seen in my life” Cortez returned fire, hitting Joeshawn several times. He died before help arrived.

Cortez was rushed to a local hospital. He was treated for a non-life threatening injury & placed on routine administrative leave, according to Capt. Dexter Nelson, of the Oklahoma City Police Department. Joeshawn was survived by a large family, including his parents, Edward June Williams & Joy Marie Tyler & four siblings: Jonas, Joya Diamonique Tyler, Edward Johnson & Jamie Walker. His funeral was held on Saturday, January 18 at Second Rose of Sharon Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Joel Tyler Pastor, officiating. Cortez was given a medal of honor at annual police banquet. "You have a healthy respect for the loss of life," he told reporters. "Taking life, & honestly being prepared to give your own life.." He credits God & his training at the Oklahoma City police Department for saving his life. "You wear blue & gray, & you wear that gold badge," he said, "And I'm going to tell you on that day, I had every one of my brothers & sisters with me. They were there & it was a comforting feeling," he said.

**January 22, 2014
Kenner, Louisiana**

Eldrin Loren "Big Man" Smart, 31 of Lutcher was on parole after being charged with drug possession and "simple escape" which under Louisiana Law RS 14:110 may result from leaving a detention site or failing to show up to a work program or return, after furlough, to a place of confinement at the appropriate time.

Around 8:40 Tuesday night

he was in the drivers seat of a 1999 Honda Accord with an unnamed friend in the passenger's seat. Parked in the lot of a Brothers Food Mart a few blocks north of the Mississippi they had both seats fully reclined.

Two detectives conducting a narcotics investigation opened the car doors, guns drawn. Identifying themselves as LPD officers the detective on the passenger side reached across the passenger who'd raised his hands immediately to retrieve the car keys.

Big Man put the car in reverse causing the detective to fall on top of passenger. "He may very well have been as shocked as the officer was" according to police. Big Man sped forward. The detective reached for the keys but he swatted him away.

He was doing almost 50, headed up Clay St. when the detective shot him four times in the side.

The Accord crashed into a Ford F-150 in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church hoisting it into the air. The front end of the truck crashed into a silver Pontiac Grand Prix parked nearby.

The passenger & the detective were taken to local hospitals. The passenger received surgery to repair a broken arm. He faced drug charges in connection with marijuana found in the car. The detective was treated for minor injuries to the neck & released. He was put on paid administrative leave. According to Kenner Police Chief Steve Caraway, both detectives reacted “by the book” & were lucky to be alive. “Could they have killed the officer in the car? Could they have driven off a bridge?” he asked. He considered the shooting justified. “I don't think you have to wait until the gun is drawn or the knife is pulled,” he said. “When an officer confronts a suspect like that, that has total disregard for the law & for the occupant of the vehicle's safety, I think the officer acted accordingly.”

**January 29, 2014
Detroit, Michigan**

McKenzie Cochran, age 25 was asked to leave the Northland Mall in Southfield, Detroit a sprawling concrete complex surrounded by parking lots just north of Eight Mile Road on 28 January. The next day he was back; a worker behind the counter at LA Diamond hearing him say "I want to kill someone today," called security. Officers of IPC International, a private firm arrived around 5:30pm. They told McKenzie to leave. When he didn't head for an exit one pulled a can of pepper spray & sprayed him in the face. The officers tussled him to the floor; cell phone footage shows McKenzie face down on the tile floor, arms flat out at his sides. One officer straddles his legs, another kneels on his back, two more grapple with his arms. "I can't breathe!" McKenzie shouted. He asked bystanders to call 911. "Stop resisting" repeats one of the guards. Eventually McKenzie stopped. No one attempted CPR.

McKenzie's family members filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Oakland Circuit Court seeking \$800 million in damages. The lawsuit is assigned to Judge Colleen O'Brien."There was a point prior to his death they should have let him up," attorney Gerald Thurswell argued. "They are devastated. They lost their child," he said. "Somebody needs to be held accountable." In March, the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office ruled McKenzie's death an accident, terming it position compression asphyxia. Acknowledging that mistakes were made, Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper said Thursday there was no proof of criminal intent. "This is not an issue of whether these security guards were negligent," Cooper said. "It's whether they were criminally negligent." Ron Scott, spokesman for the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, said "I don't know what an accident is, when you've got the knee in the back, compresses the chest cavity, which most police departments do not do, & security do not do, & then you say, 'He caused his own death by resisting.'"

February 10, 2014
Edgefield, South Carolina

At 68, Earnest Satterwhite, Sr. was a laid-back former mechanic who liked to fish, kept to himself & indulged in some bad habits including ignoring police officers trying to pull him over. He'd done it at least three times before.

Around 7:30 pm at Knox & North Augusta Public Safety officer Justin Craven tried to pull Earnest over. He led Craven on a slow chase, nine north on U.S. 25 to his home on Rose Drive. He parked.

Craven approached the driver's side door. He argued with Earnest, then shot him five times through the driver's window striking him twice in the chest.

An Edgefield County grand jury indicted Craven on one count of official misconduct in office. He was not placed on leave until more than a week after the indictment, which states that he “willfully, knowingly, intentionally & unlawfully” committed official misconduct, “breaching the duties of trustworthiness, accountability, properly discharging his official duties...” “It diminishes the nature of the violation - of the death. This man's life is only worth a misdemeanor?” state Rep. Joe Neal stated.

February 16, 2014
New Orleans, Louisiana

Keith Atkinson, aged 31 was known as “Magik” after Magic Johnson, who played a great season the year he was born. In his twenties, he’d been shot six times & had survived nearly forty surgeries over more than two years. According to his father Keith Joseph, Magic was not “an altar boy but he wasn’t a straight-out killer”—he hung out on the streets, but “wasn’t a criminal.”

On Sunday morning Magik woke his mother “giddy” with joy to tell her how the previous night he’d partied with Lil Wayne & Mack Maine with whom he’d grown up in Hollygrove. His son was 10; his daughters 11 & 14. The eldest was marching in a parade in Metairie later that morning. At 9:00, minutes before they planned to leave, Magik walked two blocks to pick up cigarettes at McKenzie Food—a brick building with a mural on one side—a dreadlocked face between dollar signs aliens & a pyramid’s single eye.

Around the same time, according to Royleisha Wesley & Zaairvert Williams the store cashier scolded a child for spilling Little Hug fruit juice on the floor; a man had yelled at the cashier & stolen a case of Little Hug. The cashier called 911.

At 9:20, NOPD Officer Jonathan Hirdes confronted Magik, who was across the street. Magik “was in an upright position” when he was shot: twice in the right arm once in the ankle, & the fatal shot which entered the torso through the side.

A half-dozen witnesses said Hirdes shot Magik at close range, hitting him in back without warning. According to Abraham Johnson, Magik might have tripped over his pants just before the gunfire started. Johnson didn't hear the officer give a command. "Ain't no 'stop' or nothing," he said. A .45 was found near the body—a weapon reported stolen in Baton Rouge the previous May—but witnesses did not see a gun. According to Attorney Eric Hessler of the Police Association of New Orleans, "Once the evidence is in, this will be another incident where - unfortunate as the outcome was - a police officer was faced with a decision he had to make within seconds, & he made the right decision."

**March 2, 2014
Citrus Heights, California**

Gabriella Monique Nevarez, 22
was Gab or Gabby to her friends.
She had a three-year-old, Vincent.
"That was the most important thing to her
her family," a one-time girlfriend
Hailey Lewis, told the press.
According to Gabby's grandma
Mary Beesely, she was bipolar.
She wasn't dangerous but often went
into a dark place.

Around 11:30

Sunday morning, Gabby argued
with her grandma. She jumped
into Mary's car & sped away.

Her grandmother called police.
A Citrus Heights patrol car
pulled Gabby over near the
Northridge Country Club
on Madison Ave.

Brian Fritsch

of the Citrus Heights PD
described the scene: "Officers arrived.
The female became uncooperative
combative & tried to flee..."
Gabby rammed a patrol car
& headed south, three cruisers
following. "She called me,"
her grandma explained.
"I said come home Gabriella
it's okay. She said no Nana
you got me F'ed up."

When a patrol car blocked her route
on Sunset Ave. in Fair Oaks.
She struck it, then backed into
a driveway. She climbed out
& reached back into the car, perhaps
for ID or to set the brake

Two officers fired at least 15 rounds.

“My mind goes over & over it. I can’t sleep at night most of the time,” Gabrielle's grandmother said. “She was very loved. They took her out. Just like that. Just like an animal. & she wasn’t any animal. She’s my heart. She’s always been my heart.” She & other family members plan to pursue legal action. The Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office is investigating. The officers involved have been placed on administrative leave. Her Gabby grandmother set up a donation account at Bank of the West under “Gabiella Nevarez Memorial Fund” to help pay funeral expenses. Friends & family started an Instagram page: @JusticeForGabb. They’ve attempted to reach out to reality TV stars such as Po Johnson & Dice of MTV’s La La’s Full Court Life, Compton rapper The Game & a few other out lesbians celebrities.

March 5, 2014
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Robert J. Storay, 52, served nine years in the US Army as a Dental Lab Specialist. He received an Overseas Service Ribbon Army Service Ribbon, Marksman Badge (for the M-1), & Expert Qualification Badge. A graduate of Veterans Upward Bound Robert enrolled at Pulaski Tech in the Fall of 2010 to work on an Associate of Arts degree. He hoped to find work as a Dental assistant & expected to graduate in May.

Sometimes called King Rob, he was known for a wonderful sense of humor & brutal honesty. He had the ability to turn almost anyone's bad day around & was passionate about his family. His mother had recently passed. His newest grandson was named after him.

In October 2010, Robert sued the Little Rock PD in a "civil rights action." The suit was dismissed.

A little after noon on Wednesday he caused a disturbance while riding a nearly full Central Arkansas Transit bus. The driver called police to Fourth & Maple. An officer escorted him off the bus in front of First Presbyterian Church.

He struck the officer with a gold-knobbed wooden cane. The officer shot him. He was taken to UAMS Medical Center where he later died.

The officer has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation. "This will take quite some time," North Little Rock Police Sgt. Brian Dedrick said. "We'll be interviewing at least 20 to 25 individuals that were on the bus at the point in time when the CAT driver called it in."

May 4, 2014
Shreveport, Kansas

Police & press refer to Dexter Jevon Christmas, 44 as Jerome Dexter Christmas. Around 6:00pm on Sunday he was walking down Highland Ave in his underwear.

According to witnesses, when officer's approached Dexter laid down on the ground on his own free will." He was on the ground when two additional officers arrived. "They started tasing that man, when he was already down." said a witness who didn't want to be named. "When the other officer pulled up, he started beating that man all in the legs several times, when he wouldn't stop jerking from moving he started beating him at the top of his head."

Dexter quit breathing. Officers performed CPR. "I saw the guy laying on the ground, they were pumping his chest & everything like that," a witness said.

Dexter was rushed to the VA Medical Center, where he died.

Caddo Coroner Dr. Todd Thoma conducted the autopsy. According to Dr. Thoma, Dexter died of natural causes. He speculates that cardiac arrest most likely resulted from heat stroke. He said there were no signs of trauma that would cause death. According to Cpl. Marcus Hines of the Shreveport PD, "So there was force used in order to get the combative subject into police custody," adding that one of the four officers involved was suffered injuries after he Tased himself.

May 7, 2014
Hearne, Texas

Neighbors called Pearlie Golden, 93, Miss Sully.
She lived in a small house on Pin Oak road
among a small grove of those trees—
a desolate, semi-industrial zone
between the municipal airport & I-79
a block west of Railroad St & the tracks.

Recently, she'd failed her driver's license
renewal test. When her nephew, Roy Jones
decided it was time to take away her keys
she became disgruntled, retrieved
her .38.

Roy called the police—
she's waving a gun, he said, explaining why.

Hearne Police Officer Stephen Stem responded.
When she “brandished a firearm” at him
he concluded that the distraught nonagenarian
could not be reasoned with.

He shot Miss Sully
four or five times. She was taken to a hospital
in nearby Bryan, where she died.

City attorney Bryan Russ Jr. said the officer has been put on paid administrative leave while an investigation into the incident was handled by the Texas Rangers. “What we believe is that she was instructed to drop the weapon, that is my understanding,” Russ said. Her family & community couldn’t believe it. They rallied in public protest. “Even if she did have a gun, she is in her 90’s,” said Lawanda Cooke. “I don’t see her shooting anyone.” It soon came out that Stem, hired to the force in 2012, had killed another resident of Hearne. & that while on the Bryan PD, where he'd spent three years, he pointed his gun at a bystander while another officer was in his field of fire. Jessica Vega, communications director at the Hearne PD, remarked how unusual it was for one officer to be involved in 2 shootings in 2 years. When HPD ruled the shooting was justified, the city council unanimously voted to fire Stem. According to Robert McCabe, his lawyer, “The knee-jerk reaction to terminate Mr. Stem was not about whether Ms. Golden chose to create & perpetuate a life-threatening situation. . . . Rather, the city's decision was about appeasing certain members of the community who want to make this case about Ms. Golden's age, the fact she is African-American, or the fact she is a woman.” “I pity any police department that hires him,” Hearne resident Dawn Jefferson observed.

May 10, 2014
Columbus, Ohio

Joseph Givens, 34, a father of four had “typical problems” according to his Aunt. “He was a very good person at heart,” according to his ex Sheronda Byrd-Givens, who has custody of their daughters ages twelve, seven & two.

“He’s been up & down about losing his family,” she said. He had problems with alcohol & behaved erratically, yet always managed to attend Sunday dinner at his mom’s house on Benvue Drive. He had several criminal charges on record, for drug, weapons domestic violence & robbery.

After midnight on Saturday morning residents of Jonathan Drive a few blocks from Joseph's home woke to see him in white T-shirt and pajama bottoms, crisscrossing the quiet street, banging on doors.

He went from house to house yelling, “Let me in!” According to Julius Spencer, whose Rottweiler Sylis alerted him to the stranger Joseph “was making funny motions and stuff & mumbling, I couldn't understand what he said.” When he rattled Gloria Battle's front door, at first she thought “it was my son.” Seeing that it wasn't she ran to her bedroom, crouched on the floor, dialed 9-1-1.

Officers arrived within minutes. Joseph “charged” them with a knife. He was shot multiple times. Bullets ripped through Battle's door frame

& the corner of her house.

She peeked out the window
saw Joseph's body slumped
on the other side of her fence
near the curb. His Aunt, who
lives across the street, saw
that he “raised his head
and I’m watching & still
not knowing it was my nephew.
I will not get over that he laid there
that long & he was a relative”
she said. He died at the scene.

“Anybody else would have taken off,” said Spencer. “I don’t understand why he wouldn’t leave.” Columbus Police spokesman Sgt. Rich Weiner stated that, as with other police-involved shootings, the death will be investigated & the officers offered counseling & paid leave.

May 7, 2014
Chicago, Illinois

Dominique Antonio Franklin, Jr., 23
excelled early on in school & church—
he was a deacon by nine
& delivered his first sermon at ten.
“He was just a guy where his heart
just sort of connected with people,”
said Noah Sims, who met Dominique
at Lollapalooza. “He just sort of
grabbed you & you knew you had
somebody to look out for you.
Last time I saw him, he kissed me
on the top of the head & said
‘I love you, little bro.’”

After his mother died, Dominique
struggled. He traveled for awhile.
He turned to alcohol, his father said.
Dominique Franklin, Sr. wanted him
to join the military. He’d been in trouble
more than once, & was under
house arrest, but had left his home
in Sauk Village for a South Side room.

Just after midnight Wednesday morning
Dominique was observed boosting
from the Walgreens across from Second City
on North Wells, in the Old Town triangle.

An officer stopped him on the street outside.
Witnesses say Dominique freed
himself, & was starting to run
when the officer Tased him twice.
He smashed his head against a light pole
& fell into the street.

Cellphone videos reveal that for fifteen
or twenty minutes, before paramedics arrive
several officers walk around his body
without anyone checking him or trying to help.

Eventually he was transported to nearby
Northwestern Hospital, where police charged

his comatose body with two counts of resisting and felony retail theft. Dominique never awoke. He died two weeks later on a Tuesday afternoon.

At his funeral, family & friends remembered a young man who had lived all over the country, took advanced classes in grammar school & enjoyed a wide circle of friends. "I think every child, at some point in their teen years, comes to that crossroads about why they're here," Franklin Sr. said. He'd been searching online for his boy when he found a news story on Facebook about a critically injured young man. Rushing to the hospital, he found his son shackled to his bed. His father's suing the city. "It's my intent with legal counsel to find out what happened. It's a duty I owe to my father & our family to find out why my son met an early death," he said.

July 5, 2014
Pine Lawn, Missouri

Christopher Jones, 30, of Bel-Ridge had two sons: Christopher Maurice age 10, & Maurice Christopher, age 9. His sister Kimberly Macharia describes a loving son & father looking for work. He worked temp jobs & had applied at a supermarket. He was living in a motel driving a rental car he hadn't returned.

In 2009, Chris pleaded guilty in St. Louis to charges of drug possession, unlawful use of a weapon, resisting arrest, attempted assault on a law enforcement officer. He completed two years of probation.

On Friday night the Fourth of July, he celebrated Independence Day by hanging out at a St. Louis recording studio with friends. "Heavily intoxicated" he left the party with a friend to pick up his girlfriend a nurse, from night shift.

Sometime after 1:00 on Saturday morning, Pine Lawn Police Officer Benjamin Petrov clocked the 2012 Chevrolet Cruz Westbound on I-70, doing over 90. He pursued. Christopher pulled over. As Petrov approached, he observed "a series of furtive movements inside the vehicle." He sought cover behind his patrol car's door.

Jones told his passenger, "you may want to get out now." He climbed out, shouting "I don't want nothing to do with this!" "Does he have a gun?" Petrov asked. "I have no idea. He's crazy!" the passenger replied.

Officer Nicholas Stone arrived. As they took the passenger into custody, Chris sped away. At 1:54am, Stone followed in his squad car.

Heading toward southbound I-270, Chris crashed on the exit ramp. According to Stone he climbed out & ran southbound up the ramp.

Stone claims to have followed Jones & Tasered him. Official reports show the Taser was fired five times at 2:37am “long after the officer fired his weapon.”

According to Stone, Chris swung his arm backwards, striking the officer. “I'm going to fucking kill you!” he said. Stone observed him reaching into his waistband. “Show me your hands!” he shouted, unholstering his .40 caliber Glock.

According to Stone, Chris continued to swing his arm backwards. Stone's single shot entered through Chris's right shoulder, rupturing his heart.

Police officer Darryl Overall arrived immediately after Stone fired. Paramedics were summoned at 2:05 & arrived at 2:12. Chris arrived at DePaul Hospital at 2:34, where he was pronounced dead. No gun was recovered from the scene. About 32 grams of marijuana were found in the car. A .40 caliber bullet was also recovered from the car, although nothing is made of this in the report written by Robert P. McCulloch, the Prosecuting Attorney of St. Louis County. Writing to Detective Joseph Percich of the St. Louis County PD, he declares the use of force “justified & not excessive under the circumstances.” “Of course they were going to say justifiable homicide,” Chris's mother, Christa Jones, said. “But how do you justify killing somebody, a human being?” Chris's youngest sister, Avais Cummings, 19, attended two nights of protests in Ferguson immediately after Michael Brown's death, carrying a sign with a drawing of a broken heart & the words: “Justice For Christopher Jones!!! Killed By Pine Lawn Police!” “What would have happened if we did the same thing in Pine Lawn? What if it happened in Pine Lawn like it did in Ferguson?” she asked.

July 10, 2014
Columbus, Ohio

Tyshawn Hancock, 37, lived with his grandparents on Petzinger Rd, near the end of a suburban cul-de-sac of three-story townhouses. He worked as a barber.

On 6 May, 2012, he was in a bar fight; a man was choking him. Tyshawn bit his nose. His attorney, Michael H. Siewert, argued Tyshawn couldn't aid in his own defense because of mental-health issues, but he was deemed competent & pleaded guilty to attempted aggravated assault.

On April 23, 2014, he was sentenced to pay the victim's medical costs, which he did & put on parole. Around that time he signed paperwork at the Ohio Attorney General's office declaring himself a sovereign person no longer under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government or the state of Ohio. He quit showing up to his parole meetings & was scheduled to file more papers on the day he was killed. According to Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien Tyshawn "had some ideas of persecution and distrust of government officials."

On 27 June 27 he was arrested by Columbus police after a traffic stop. He was charged with driving under suspension, having an open container & possessing drug paraphernalia. Jailed over the weekend he pleaded guilty to the suspension & was released for time served. His parole violations went undetected or ignored.

At 9:30 Thursday morning, plain-clothed parole officers Jonathan Farnsworth and Kenneth Rovenko parked outside & put on bullet-proof vests. One went to the front door the other around back. Tyshawn's grandfather Charles Roberts. "Let me bring him to you" he said, hoping to avoid a confrontation in front of his Laura & their great-grandchildren ages eight & three. He knocked on the door

of his grandson's small upstairs bedroom but "that wasn't good enough." As he came back downstairs, Farnsworth & Rovenko pushed past him, guns drawn.

Farnsworth went in. He saw Tyshawn reaching for a gun beneath the bed & jumped on him wrestling him into a corner. The gun went off.

The bullet went into the hallway, hit the top of a door and landed near Laura. Another shot went into the ceiling. Rovenko joined his partner in wrestling with Tyshawn.

Three more shots were fired. One, partially deflected by his vest pierced Farnsworth in the abdomen.

Tyshawn was shot in the back, heart & lung.

Rovenko called Columbus to report the shooting at 9:35. Farnsworth sat on the bed "as if nothing had happened," according to Laura Roberts. Her husband asked "What kind of procedure was that?" "I wasn't the first one there..." Rovenko replied. Tyshawn & Farnsworth were taken to OhioHealth Grant Medical Center. Tyshawn died shortly after 10:00. Farnsworth, whose worked for the county since 2004 & heads several shooting clubs, underwent surgery & recovered. According to Columbus police spokesman Rich Weiner, "Nothing led them to believe at the very beginning that anything was going to happen." Roberts wishes the officers had been less aggressive. "You go bum-rushing in like you're coming after a murderer & you have a confrontation," he said. "You never know what someone's going to do when they're cornered." The Sovereign Citizen movement is regarded as far right; few blacks are involved. FBI officials have referred to sovereign citizens as "domestic terrorists." The family's minister, Kujenga Ashe contacted the local NAACP & ACLU. "It's like a modern day lynching. You don't see officers going into Bexley & shooting down white kids. Black youth are expendable – nobody cares about them," he said. "It's the 21st century & it's like there's been a turnaround – unarmed black youth are shot — hands up." "We sympathize with the Brown family," Tyshawn's sister Mikeea said. "It happened years ago, & it's still happening. Maybe in Columbus, we're just not mad enough yet."

June 7, 2014
Norfolk, Virginia

David Latham, 35, lived with his parents on West 30th St, a diagnosed schizophrenic at seventeen. Police had visited him many times in the past, according to Audrey his mom. Usually they stayed outside while health workers assessed her son.

David quit his medication again that spring. Hearing voices, he stopped eating & sleeping, becoming agitated. He spent three months at the Pavilion in Williamsburg Place. His family tried to get him into Eastern State Hospital a real facility, but they didn't have room.

David had called police the previous week asking to be committed. They took him to Sentara Norfolk General, but he was released the same day. Using Medicaid, he'd sought treatment at mobile mental health unit earlier in the day.

About 11:00 Friday night his sister had called the cops, telling them David had threatened his brother with a kitchen knife. She explained David's history to the dispatcher.

The house was full—five adults, four children when officers arrived. David had the knife but held it at his side. His brother Anthony asked officer to use their Tasers.

The first one to the door shot him several times. When David turned to go back inside the officer followed him into his home and shot him again.

He died at Sentara Norfolk General.

Audrey, her husband, Glennis, & other family members were taken to a police station after the shooting. They were not allowed to be with David when he died. "I begged them to let me go to the hospital," his mother said. "They wouldn't let us go. I thought that was inhumane." When she left the station about 4:00am, she got a text message saying that her son had died. Police spokeswoman Lori Crouch said, "We're still piecing together what happened last night. It's premature for them to speak until all the facts are in." David was the third man killed by Norfolk police in eight days.

June 14, 2014
Red Bird, Texas

Jason Harrison, 38, was well known
for his odd but harmless ways.
His friend Jason Abram said
“Everybody cool with him;
he may talk to himself, man
but it ain't nothing to kill a man over.”

Jason's mother, Shirley Marshall Harrison
called 911 for assistance in getting her son
to the hospital, a fairly routine procedure.
They'd done it “a hundred times or more.”

Officers John Rogers & Andrew Hutchins
arrived at her home on Glencairn Drive
near Interstate 35E & Camp Wisdom Road
about 11:30 in the morning. Shirley
opens the door. “He's just off the chain”
she says. “Bipolar schizo. You can hear him
talking about chopping up people.”

Months later, the family released
a body-suit video they acquired.
Shot from near the badge of one officer's chest
it shows the other knocking on the door.
Shirley comes out—red shirt & slacks
purse in her hand—closely followed
by her son in a sweat-stained T & shorts.

He's holding a screwdriver
fondling it, not aggressively.
Both officers, armed with Tasers
& nightsticks, draw their guns.
Their maybe three feet away.
“Drop it! Drop it!” they yell.
“Jay! Jay!” his mother screams.
When he takes a half step forward
Rogers & Hutchins fire:
two bullets in the chest, one through
Jay's forearm & into his chest
two more in his back as he falls.

Before cutting to black, the video

shows Jay's face pressed against the garage door. "You killed my child! You killed my child!" Shirley screams. "Drop it! Drop it!" the officers tell Jay.

When the video returns, more cops have arrived. "He's still alive. He's still alive," one says. "He was in the doorway. He had a screwdriver he came at us. We had to shoot him." The video's redacted again. When it returns an officer says, "We shouldn't probably talk about it. We can't talk. We shouldn't talk about it."

Upon acquiring the body-cam footage as evidence in a federal civil-rights lawsuit, Jay's family & their attorney, Geoff Henley, released it, hoping to spark reform. "This is a perfect video for the Dallas Police Department to use in training as an example of what not to do," Jay's older brother, Sean said. "You don't yell at them — that only agitates them." The officer's attorney, Chris Livingston said Rogers & Hutchins "feared for their lives." He speculated that killing someone with a small screwdriver is "pretty easy. It'll only take one blow. You can't de-escalate someone coming at you," he explained. The Dallas PD's internal investigation didn't rule, forwarding the file to the Dallas County DA. According to police spokesman Lt. Jose Garcia, Rogers & Hutchins are back on full duty as the case waits review by a grand jury. "It was a very very, very brief altercation . . .," Garza said. "The officers were protecting themselves."

July 22, 2014
White Marsh, Maryland

Briatay McDuffie, 19, lived on Sheldon Ave in Baltimore's Belair-Edison neighborhood—two blocks of well-used brick apartments each with steps leading up to a small porch.

Around midnight on Tuesday, he was driving a Toyota Corolla stolen the previous day. Dayvontae Malik Manning, 18 & an unnamed juvenile were along for the ride.

White Marsh officers spotted the Corolla on Philadelphia Rd. They followed it past single-family homes in this wealthy suburb where Gunpowder River enters Chesapeake Bay.

Briatay turned onto Madge Court, a cul-de-sac. A squad car blocked his way out. He hit it, tried to drive around, crashed into an orange Ford Edge; he & his friends took off on foot, running between

houses into a wooded area behind Kathryns Court. Mark Hauf saw them running through his yard which ends in trees along JFK Memorial Highway. His neighbor, Andrew King, observed that people

“want to run into those woods every so often” but “there's a fence you'd have to scale to get to 95.” More officers arrived, dogs & helicopters. They found one of the young men right away.

Eventually, a K-9 unit—Officer Saladino & his dog—found Briatay. No one else witness what one officer described as a “shootout” but it must have been one-sided, as Briatay was unarmed.

“At this point, detectives do not know what transpired between the suspect & the officer that led up to the shooting,” spokesman Cpl. John Wachter said. The officer sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Dayvontae was charged vehicular theft.

August 5, 2014
Beavercreek, Ohio

Around 8:00 pm, John Crawford, age 22 and his girlfriend Tasha Thomas, visited the Beavercreek Walmart, 3360 Pentagon Blvd to buy s'mores ingredients for a family cook-out. John wandered, passing through Sporting Goods where he scooped a .177 pellet air rifle from a display. Surveillance video shows him standing in Put Supply, the BB gun dangling by his side as he talks on his cell.

Another customer, Ronald Ritchie, called 911. He told the dispatcher John was pointing a gun at children, a statement he later recanted: "At no point did he shoulder the rifle."

Two Beavercreek Police officers, one in shorts and riot gear, arrived a few minutes later automatic rifles on their shoulders. The video shows one shooting John from off-camera. John is standing, talking, half-turned away and doesn't move his head before he's hit. He drops the gun, falling behind shelves. He leaps up as the cops move in, then sprawls again—obeying commands or shot a second time. He died hours later at Miami Valley Hospital.

Immediately after the shooting, police took Tasha to the Beavercreek headquarters & questioned her aggressively, not telling her that John was dead. Detective Curd repeatedly asked her, "tell me where he got the gun from." He bangs the table & she sobs. He suggests that she's drunk or on drugs & says she'll do time for lying to him. The police charged John with homicide after Angela Williams, a customer fleeing the store, suffered a heart attack & died. On Sept. 3, 2014, a grand jury decided not to indict the officers. John's family created a petition on Change.org & filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Walmart & the Beavercreek PD. Why did John Crawford, a Walmart customer, get shot & killed carrying a BB gun in a store that sells BB guns?" asked Michael Wright, the family's attorney, during a joint press conference with the NAACP. "All the family demands is answers." Ohio State Representative Alicia Reece proposed a "John Crawford's Law", which would change the appearance of toy guns. On New Year's Day, Tasha & Frederick Bailey, 30, died in a car accident. A Justice Department investigation continues.

August 6, 2014
Bakersfield, California

Michael Laray Dozer, 26, had a history of mental illness. He'd been arrested the previous evening, outside a halfway house in the 1200 block of First Street. He'd called the police. Behaving erratically, he walked into the street. When a responding officer ordered him back, then attempted to search him he "lunged" & was charged with a misdemeanor.

The next morning, around 9:00, Michael showed up at a gas station at Mt. Vernon & Brundage Ln. a desolate intersection off Route 58 three miles from the halfway house. Michael, raging, was mostly ignored. For three hours he was seen throwing patio furniture striking a nearby fence with a bike lock yelling obscenities & screaming.

At 12:28 in the afternoon, Michael went to the gas pumps, where a woman he didn't know was pumping gas into a car occupied by her children. Michael removed the nozzle from the car spilling gasoline on the pavement & the woman's pants. When he attempted, unsuccessfully, to ignite the fuel police were called.

Officer Aaron Stringer arrived at 12:32. Michael, bicycle lock in hand ignored the officer's commands to get on the ground. He was less than ten feet away when Stinger shot him—a single bullet to the torso. Michael was transported to Kern Medical Center. He died at 1:28 pm.

Michael's funeral was held on August 15th at Rising Star Baptist Church, 3421 Wilson Road. He was interred at the Historic Union Cemetery. The Bakersfield Police Critical Incident Review Board determined that Stinger had done nothing wrong. Michael's mother, Leslie Laray Crawford, hired the Cochran Firm. Attorney Brian Dunn filed a claim against the BPD, stating that the officer shot unnecessarily, "without having probable cause or reasonable suspicion to believe that Mr. Dozer had committed any crime, or would commit a crime in the future."

MICHAEL BROWN

May 20, 1996 - August 9, 2014