

# BLACK LIVES MATTER



"I CAN'T BREATHE, I CAN'T BREATHE!"

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot."

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME. HOWEVER, THIS MUST COME TO AN END, PERMANENTLY!!!

Darthee Hamilton

Kedemah Dorsey

Hector Sosa

Eric Gardner

Kenisha McBride

Amadou Dialo

Michael Brown

Oscar Grant III

Marquell McCullough

Dianne Jones

Aiyana Stanley Jones  
(7-years old)

Sheep Crawford

Alan Blueford  
Trayvon Martin

Tyron Lewis

Kelly Thomas

John Tucker

James Rivera Jr.

Arthur McDuffy

Miguel Diaz

Maurice Williams etc, etc, etc, etc

Police violence and other abuses of authority against the people they have sworn to "protect" and "serve" is a national crisis. Those in positions of political power recognize this, and since the rebellions began in Ferguson, Missouri, they have done all they can to contain, control, and redirect the social explosion that seems to be an inevitable reality. This is so, because the current aggressive and abusive policing policies practiced by America's law enforcement is going to get worse - i.e. more repressive - by design. Add to that, the ongoing militarization of police forces throughout the country, and the appearance and mentality of an occupying army is nurtured and encouraged.

Lastly, the U.S. justice system's failure to hold these killer cops accountable, either through grand jury indictments, guilty verdicts and long prison sentences, or U.S. Department of Justice prosecutions and long prison sentences, has the affect of being the spark that ignites the powder keg because of the people's lost of trust and respect for the system.

## TAKING A STAND FOR WHAT'S RIGHT: ST. LOUIS RAMS PLAYERS

IN A WORLD FILLED WITH SO MUCH WRONG, IT WAS INSPIRING FOR ME AND HOPEFULLY FOR OTHERS AS WELL, TO SEE NFL STARS TAVON AUSTIN, JARED COOK, CHRIS GIVENS, AND STELMAN BAILEY EMERGE FROM THEIR STADIUM'S TUNNEL AND DISPLAY THE "HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT" GESTURE, AS A SIGN OF THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE'S DEMAND FOR REAL JUSTICE AND FOR RECOGNITION THAT "BLACK LIVES MATTER".

IN THE AFTERMATH OF WHITE POLICEMAN DARREN WILSON'S MURDER OF "UNARMED" BLACK TEENAGER, MICHAEL BROWN, THE "HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT" SIGNAL HAS BECOME SYMBOLIC WORLDWIDE WITH THE GROWING MOVEMENT TO END POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDERS HERE INSIDE

The self-proclaimed "beacon of democracy!"

Austin, Givens, Stedman, and Bailey should all be applauded rather than condemned for their courage, and consciousness in taking a stand for what is right. A stand concerning an issue that directly affects them despite their wealth as NFL players, because at the end of the game/day they understand they are just another black man in the eyes of the police. Today it's a Michael Brown, or Eric Gardner, but tomorrow it could easily be one of them.

All but a few of the debates surrounding these players' actions have missed the point entirely. You see, it's not about the statement they made, but more importantly the circumstances and conditions giving rise to "why" each of them felt compelled to make the statement.

This is true now, just as it was in

1968 in Mexico City, when Tommie Smith and John Carlos stood on podiums during the Olympic's Awards ceremony with clenched fists raised high in the air.

Its like I said before, the more things change, the more they remain the same. The struggle continues!!

# Police Officers Wearing Body Cameras

IT HAS BECOME A NATIONAL DISCUSSION AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASING DEADLY CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - PARTICULARLY, INDIVIDUALS FROM THE BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ONE AREA THAT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ON A LARGE SCALE, THE USE OF BODY CAMERAS IS HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, WHICH IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS CITY OF HOUSTON.

IN A RECENT MOVE TO APPEASE THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING SEVERAL PROTESTS OVER THE POLICE MURDERS OF UNARMED BLACK MEN, THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SOON HAVE SOME OF THEIR OFFICERS WEAR BODY CAMERAS. WHILE THIS IDEA MAY ALLOW THE GRIEVING FAMILY OF A MINORITY VICTIMIZED BY POLICE VIOLENCE TO HAVE A PIECE OF EVIDENCE TO RECOUNT THE LAST MOMENTS OF A LOVED ONE'S LIFE, IT'S NOTHING CLOSE TO BEING A PART OF THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM. I SAID "OUR" PROBLEM, BECAUSE EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF YOUR RACE, BACKGROUND, RELIGION, OR AGE, HAS A STAKE IN SEEING TO IT THAT DEADLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE PUBLIC COME TO AN ABRUPT END. AND WHILE THESE BODY CAMERAS SHALL BE USED MORE SO TO ABSOLVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OF WRONGDOING, THEY CAN NOT BE

(2.)

hailed as being a part of the solution to our problem.

This is so, because when it becomes necessary for the law enforcement of this country to be equipped with body cameras to monitor their interactions with the public, the hypocrisy of "to protect AND SERVE" is highlighted for the world to see. It is a fundamental tradition for those men and women sworn "to protect AND SERVE" us to require a body camera to deter their use of excessive and often deadly force. Ironically, what the Sheriff and Police Chief purposely failed to discuss is the historical relationships their respective agencies have with the poor and working-class communities of Houston, and surrounding areas.

For example, the Houston Police Chief never said a word about the fact that in the past six years, not a single Houston police officer has been disciplined for shooting someone. Not one!! HPD officers however have been involved in approximately 550 shooting incidents in which a citizen or animal was injured or killed by a police officer's bullet. The HPD's office of Internal Affairs purports to have "investigated" each shooting



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And amazingly so, determined that every one of these incidents of deadly force being used, was "justified."

Of the "706" complaints about excessive force, the Chief of Police disciplined just "15" of his officers. Yeah, just "15".

You do the math and the message becomes crystal clear: Either Houston police almost NEVER abuse their power, or they abuse it with impunity, just like their counterparts around the country.

What will wearing body cameras do to end these circumstances?