

**Communities United
Against Police Brutality**

Image: © Louie Tran



CUAPB End of Year Review 2022

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Letter from the President

Michelle Gross, CUAPB President

We started Communities United Against Police Brutality in December 2000 with the vision of an organization that would take on police brutality, misconduct and abuse of authority on a consistent basis. Prior to CUAPB, community organizing around police accountability only happened after a serious incident. This meant that the work was reactive and didn't address the day-to-day abuses that create the climate that leads to the more serious incidents. With CUAPB, we developed a proactive infrastructure to empower the community to take on the systemic causes of police brutality.

This has been a very special year in the history of Communities United Against Police Brutality. For over 20 years, we have been an all-volunteer organization. That changed this year when we formed our Litigation Unit, hiring Paul Bosman as Chief Counsel. Paul volunteered with us for years, filing lawsuits on our

behalf when government agencies wouldn't release data. He has been especially successful in getting data for families in police deadly force incidents. The Litigation Unit has also taken on five wrongful death cases and a number of police brutality lawsuits. We've already achieved some amazing victories (see pages 6-10).

We're continuing our work informing the community about the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and US Department of Justice investigations into the Minneapolis Police Department. For the last two summers, canvassers gathered people's experiences with Minneapolis police. We submitted over 2000 of these experiences to the agencies to inform their investigations. We're also using what we learned to craft a People's Consent Decree to ensure the community's demands are centered in the court orders that will be coming in the new year.

CUAPB's work covers three areas:

- **Advocacy.** We provide a 24-hour statewide hotline for police brutality incidents as well as assistance for people affected by police violence. This includes lawyer referrals, assistance with gathering evidence and investigating their cases, and attending court. We also reinvestigate police critical incidents to challenge the official narrative and enable families to seek justice.
- **Policy.** From the beginning, we've worked to change policies, ordinances and state statutes to address the underlying causes of police brutality and make the criminal justice system fairer and more responsive to the community. In 2021, for example, we got Travis' Law passed by the state legislature to end police-only responses to mental health crisis calls. Our no-knock warrant bill banned many of these warrants and created a reporting requirement so that we can better understand which departments are getting these warrants and why.
- **Education.** We provide information on proposed ordinances, statutes and budgets so the community can understand their impact on policing and safety. We teach know your rights and cop watch training, which can prevent police abuse in some encounters.

Letter from the President, continued...

Just as we have challenged police-only responses to mental health crises, we have been at the forefront of challenging evictions of homeless encampments by law enforcement. COVID-related job losses and the lifting of rent relief has led to a drastic increase in homelessness across the state, with about four to five times more homeless people than there are shelter beds. Unsheltered homeless people form encampments for mutual safety and support. Rather than helping people and providing needed services, cities send cops and bulldozers to displace people and steal their property, including tents, sleeping bags and heaters needed to survive the cold Minnesota winters. This is absolutely the wrong approach to a social services issue and has serious public health and safety consequences. Working in coalition and following the leadership of impacted people, we've held protests and other actions to demand a moratorium on encampment evictions.

Two of us with CUAPB have been on a committee revising the rules of the Minnesota POST Board, the licensing agency for law enforcement officers. This agency has historically been weak—so weak that they could not even pull the licenses of the four cops who murdered George Floyd until they had been convicted of a felony. We've developed rules changes that enable this agency to pull the licenses of cops who engage in wrongdoing and prohibit cops from being members of hate groups. These rules are moving through the final approval process now and we're proud to have been involved in this work.

Our Mental Health Work Group has continued to assist counties in implementing Travis' Law, the bill we got through the legislature in 2021 which requires 911 call centers to send mental health crisis teams to mental health crisis calls. Despite the obvious common sense of this approach, certain county sheriffs continue to resist implementation. We're promoting Travis' Law with public service announcements and through holding community meetings across the state.

Our Reinvestigation Work Group takes data from official investigations of police deadly force incidents and reinvestigates the cases. They literally reinterview witnesses, measure and photograph the scene, and review forensic and ballistic evidence. Their examination often leads to directly challenging the official narrative and justification for the killing, and allows families to pursue lawsuits to achieve some measure of justice. Read more about their efforts on page 15.

We remain a volunteer-led organization but our efforts over the last year have positioned us to accomplish even more in 2023. We'll be making sure the community's demands are part of the anticipated DOJ and MDHR consent decrees, we're crafting a legal strategy to help unsheltered homeless people whose property is stolen by police, we'll continue to assist people affected by police violence, including families of stolen lives, and we'll be introducing bills in the legislature to increase police accountability. Please help us do this work! We are people-powered and we would love to have you join us. We meet every Saturday and our work is carried out through work groups that meet throughout the week. Click the link on our website to volunteer or check out our calendar. If your time is limited but you still want to help, donations to fund our work are always welcome. We don't seek grants or government funds so we rely on individual contributions to fund our work.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to a very productive new year.



Litigating the Way Forward: CUAPB's Litigation Unit

CUAPB is extremely proud to announce that in April 2022, Paul Bosman accepted our offer to form the litigation unit of Communities United Against Police Brutality.

Communities United Against Police Brutality has worked with individual lawyers and legal organizations for years. CUAPB has worked to get law firms to take the cases of the families of Stolen Lives, and worked with volunteer attorneys to “fight City Hall” for government transparency and accountability.

Paul has been one of a few volunteer CUAPB attorneys for several years now. Paul worked his hours for a law firm and then volunteered his services to CUAPB after hours, like every other volunteer who gets the work done for CUAPB, for the families of Stolen Lives, and for everyone in our communities who may have to deal with a police officer. Now, we are extraordinarily privileged to be able to have Paul work full time for the reforms he used to fight for in his spare time.

As a police accountability organization in our 22nd year, 2022 felt like the right time in our evolution to form the litigation unit. The litigation unit will continue our history of data practices and First Amendment litigation on behalf of the organization but will also take on the difficult police excessive force and wrongful death cases that have become Paul's hallmark.

Michelle Gross, CUAPB's president and co-founder, outlined the mandate for the Litigation Unit, but we are building it everyday. We are bringing suit for the families of those killed by the police. We have organized a campaign to gather complaint data from over a hundred police departments. We are moving to make state agencies release body camera footage. We are planning for legislation to weaken qualified immunity. We are fundraising to make the litigation unit stronger.

Now CUAPB has a litigation unit. We have five smooth stones, and we hunt giants.

*Paul Bosman,
Chief Counsel*



The story of Marcus Golden

Marcus Golden was killed by officers of the Saint Paul Police Department on a snowy night over seven years ago. His case was the last where the Saint Paul PD investigated their own police shooting incident. The officers were never charged, and Marcus' family never really knew what happened to Marcus when he met Officers Peck and Doverspike in that parking lot at two in the morning. They never received justice for their loss, and it seemed like they never would.

At least it seemed like there would be no justice for Marcus until this last December of 2021. Normally, once three years have passed, claims for a wrongful death expire, but last year an attorney associated with the Stolen Lives Justice Fund asked a Federal magistrate judge to allow a claim of wrongful death on Marcus' seven-year-old claim under an exception to the limit on claims for "a death caused by an intentional act constituting murder." The magistrate judge granted the motion to add the wrongful death claim. This use of the Murder Exception is giving Marcus' family a chance at justice in the case of his death, but more than that, it may allow other families of Stolen Lives to try their killers for murder in a civil court for as long as the police officers involved are alive.

As you can imagine, this ruling disturbed the city of Saint Paul. The city has decided to hire private attorneys for the two cops involved in Marcus' shooting. The activist community stepped up and asked the city council why these two cops deserve outside counsel, when the city attorney's office has represented all the other killer cops in the City.

The city hired the private attorneys, saying they were required to because of a conflict of interest. Perhaps, but they only moved to do so when the Stolen Lives Justice Fund helped an attorney put the officers on the hook under the Murder exception.

The battle for justice for Marcus is just beginning.

Beyond what we have been planning, we want to tell you what we have done so far.

The murder exception in wrongful death suits

This year our litigation unit has pioneered the use of the Murder Exception to get justice for the families of Stolen Lives years beyond the normal three years that they have been limited to. Families of stolen lives are on a running clock from the moment their loved one dies at police hands, and there are forces working to prevent them from getting justice beyond just their own grief. The information on how their loved one died is kept from them by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension during the BCA's investigation, generally for around a year. Then the BCA usually releases well over a thousand pages of information in a "public" version of their report. Loved ones have to analyze what really happened from this partial report, and convince an attorney to take their case before the statute of limitations runs out on their claims, and the full story forever remains untold.

CUAPB helped the family of Marcus Golden find a way to go to court on Marcus' wrongful death over six years after the night it happened.





Challenging qualified immunity in the case of Travis Jordan

Marcus' fight was not the only stolen life that the Litigation Unit fought for this year. Besides filing lawsuits for Wrongful Death and Excessive Force in the cases of Kobe Heisler, an autistic man killed by the Brooklyn Center Police Department, and Jafford Smith, killed by the Saint Paul Police Department, CUAPB had a victory in the case of Travis Jordan. Travis was killed by two rookie officers of the Minneapolis Police Department who were sent to conduct a wellness check on a depressed Travis.

Qualified immunity is the doctrine that says that even when police officers violate someone's constitutional rights, they are immune to lawsuits if any reasonable police officer could believe that they acted properly.

Just this September, the judge in the case of Travis Jordan denied qualified immunity to the Minneapolis police officer who killed Travis Jordan as he walked toward the officer with a kitchen knife

held at his side. Travis' case is still moving toward justice, and it will embolden other civil rights lawyers to take these knife cases, even as *Kisela v. Hughes* is the law of the land. *Kisela v. Hughes* says that a police officer is entitled to qualified immunity if he shoots a person with a knife who is near another person.

[A]n officer does not possess the unfettered authority to shoot someone because that person is carrying a weapon but is only entitled to do so when the officer or another person is threatened with the weapon." The judge went on to deny qualified immunity to the officer in Travis Jordan's case for the last 4 of the 7 shots he fired at Travis, shots that were fired after Travis had fallen to the ground and dropped the kitchen knife.

In contrast to *Kisela v. Hughes*, the judge in our case said, "[A]n officer does not possess the unfettered authority to shoot someone because that person is carrying a weapon but is only entitled to do so when...the officer or another person is threatened with the weapon." The judge went on to deny qualified immunity to the officer in Travis Jordan's case for the last 4 of the 7 shots he fired at Travis, shots that were fired after Travis had fallen to the ground and dropped the kitchen knife.

The City immediately appealed the court's decision to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. CUAPB is happy to announce that the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown University Law Center has stepped forward to help defend our victory on the qualified immunity issue. The lawyers from ICAP are former government attorneys and clerks to supreme court justices dedicated to fighting for constitutional rights in the courts of appeal and the U.S. Supreme Court. We are delighted to have their help fighting for Travis. In this case, we are bringing our own giants.

Another area that the Litigation Unit fights is to get access to government information about police conduct.

After-Action Steps

When a community member is killed by police violence, Communities United Against Police Brutality goes into immediate action. Often President Michelle Gross makes contact with the family of the stolen life and helps to coach them through the contacts they will have with both government and media while helping to support them. For example, helping them find a picture of their loved one to provide to the media rather than whatever government or school picture that might be used if they don't supply one.

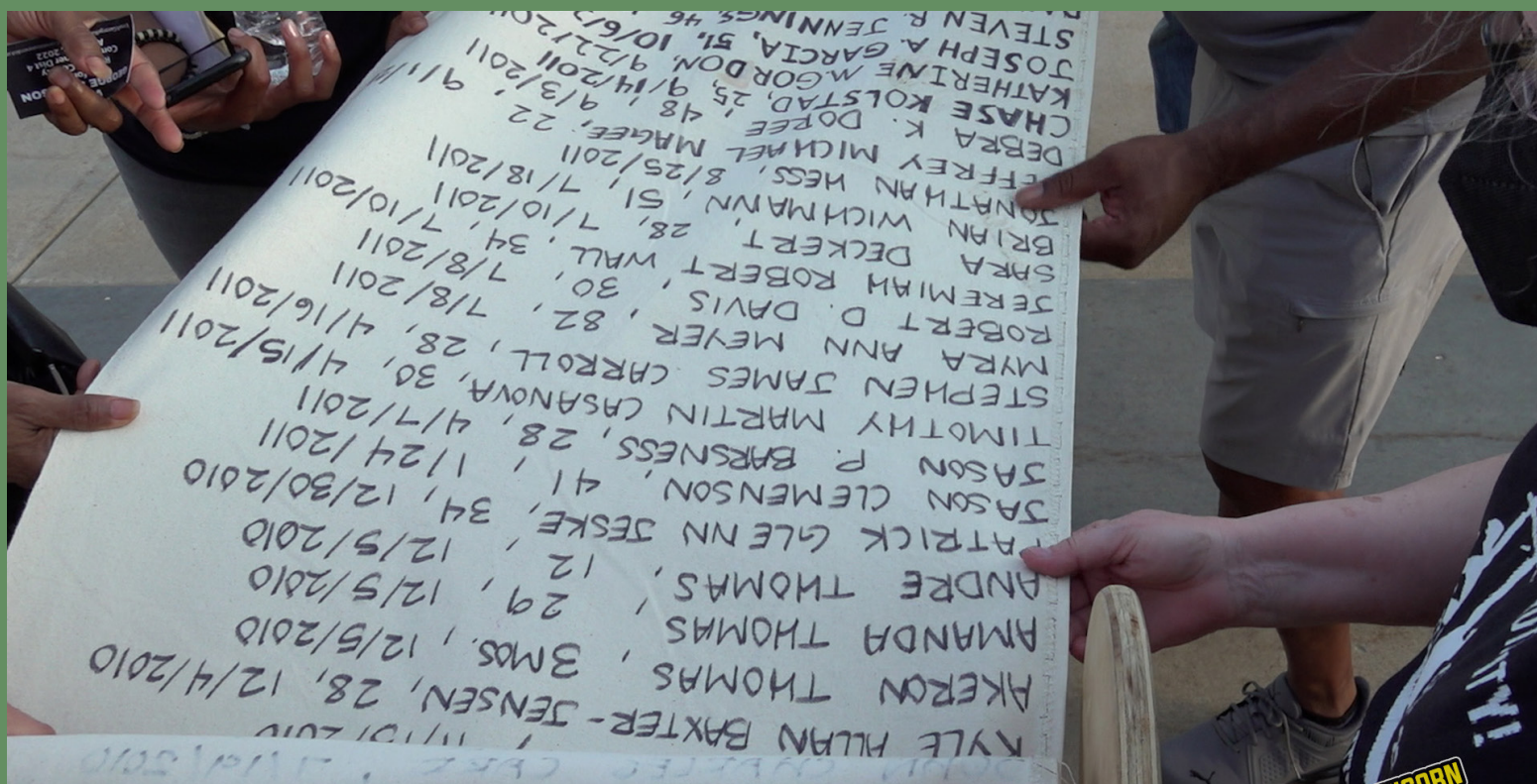
Board member Dave Bicking sends a request under the Minnesota Data Practice Act requesting the information that the law requires the police to make public at all times when someone is deprived of their liberty: the name of the stolen life, the names of the officers, whether weapons were used, whether body worn camera video exists, and more. (Minn. Stat. 13.82, subd. 2)

Since the government agencies are not always complying with public "at all times," the litigation unit begins by creating a "warning shot" letter. This letter is usually sent 24 hours after the initial request if the

information has not been made public. Often the letter is accompanied by an unsigned copy of a civil lawsuit against the agency for failure to make the data public. Finally, the litigation unit prepares a civil lawsuit, and a motion for emergency relief to ask the courts to force the agency to release the data. If it isn't released, CUAPB files the suit.

CUAPB's reinvestigation workgroup goes into action as soon as initial data is released, inspecting it for inconsistencies with the official narrative, and producing media releases to push the investigation. When the investigative file is finally released they will go through it at a nearly atomic level to pull the truth from the evidence. After sifting the evidence, they prepare a report for the family to know what happened and to help them find representation to pursue a lawsuit if they wish.

CUAPB members are in the streets shouting the names of the Stolen Lives. They are working through the night in the dim light of computer screens. They are standing with the families in press conferences and sitting with them in their living rooms. CUAPB will not stop until there are no more Stolen Lives.



The struggle for public data in officer-perpetrated killings

Another area that the Litigation Unit fights is to get access to government information about police conduct.

CUAPB has requested what is called “Arrest Data” for every police shooting. When the police take away someone’s liberty, they are required to say who the person is, who the police officer is, why someone’s liberty was taken, and where they were taken to, amongst other things. They are required to make this information available at all times.

Ten Minnesotan lives were taken this year at the hands of law enforcement; the majority of which were located outside of the metropolitan area of the state. For nearly every officer-perpetrated killing, it is a fight to get this public data released in a timely manner.

Take, for example, **the Charles Bangs shooting**. Charles Bangs was killed on April 28th of 2022 when State Trooper Megan Boser and Otter Tail County Sheriff’s deputy Dale Haberer fired their weapons at him. Getting even that information was not simple.

CUAPB volunteer and board member Dave Bicking sent a data request to both the State Patrol and the Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Department requesting all the data that is to be public at all times according to Minnesota Law. Over 24 hours later, the State Patrol had not answered and Sheriff Barry Fitzgibbons of Otter Tail County said, “I have received your request. This office has no public data responsive to your request.”

Remembering 2022 Stolen Lives

Amir Locke
February 2nd, 2022
Minneapolis PD

Jesse Werling
April 5th, 2022
Roseville PD

Michael Johnson
April 20th, 2022
St. Louis County SO & Virginia PD

Charles Bangs
April 28th, 2022
MN State Patrol & Otter Tail County SO

Tekle Sundberg
July 14th, 2022
Minneapolis PD

Joshua Hippler
July 30th, 2022
Rochester PD

Jordyn Hansen
August 7th, 2022
Wright County SO

Erik Hammer
September 30th, 2022
North Branch PD

Howard Johnson
December 5th, 2022
St. Paul PD

Brent Alsleben
December 15th, 2022
Hutchinson PD

The struggle for public data: Charles Bangs

With the state stonewalling on one hand, and outright lying from the county, CUAPB attorney Paul Bosman sent both agencies a letter demanding the data, along with an unsigned complaint and motion papers for immediate relief. The letter said that if the data wasn't released within 24 hours, then the complaint would be filed with the court. Within hours the BCA released the information on its website. Even Sheriff Barry got around to a terse, "Per your request West Central Drug Task Force Agent/Otter Tail County Deputy Dale Haberer." So the bare legal minimum of data was out in public, even if it did take a couple extra days and the threat of a lawsuit.

After the data was released CUAPB doubled down, and requested the video footage of the shooting. That request was instantly rejected, as we knew it would be. We made the request so that we could establish part of the law that it seems has never been tested.

First of all, the law in Minnesota makes body-worn camera footage where a police officer fires a firearm public. That footage always gets classified as non-public while there is an investigation ongoing. Since the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension often takes a year to investigate before handing the results over to a County Attorney for a charging decision, the exception for investigations swallows the rule that the video is public. There is a section of the law which allows for a challenge to the classification of the video as non-public as investigatory data. No one has tried that section of the law.

Until now, that is. A month after the shooting, CUAPB filed an action with the court in Ramsey County. The law is pretty simple. The court is to review the video in chambers and determine "whether the benefit to the person bringing the action or to the public outweighs any harm to the public, to the agency or to any person identified in the data."



Photo credits: Twitter/CharlesFBangs1

What should be simple is often not when moving into new areas of law. After long delays and two hearings, the court has issued an order that the state produce the videos for the court's viewing by January 2, 2023. We hope for an order releasing the footage shortly after.

At the most recent hearing, the state argued that although the County Attorney had decided not to charge the officer in the shooting, the matter was still under investigation because, 1) one of the passengers in the car was charged with a crime three hours earlier in the day, or 2) because the other passenger might be charged in the future. These outlandish arguments highlight how important it is to challenge the state's decision to hide the footage from the public, and how hopeful we are to win the release of the video.

Charles grew up on Long Lake and loved fishing, boating, skiing, and getting together with family and friends. He loved planting flowers and arranging flower beds. He started rock hunting and polishing rocks, spending many hours with friends enjoying this hobby.

Photo credits: Kerem Yucel/Getty Images, upper right; Courtney Sundberg; middle left; Monique Johnson, lower right.



Amir Locke



Tekle Sundberg



Howard Johnson

In other cases, such as Amir Locke, Tekle Sundberg, and Howard Johnson, cities will only release small snippets of footage to sate the appetite of public outrage following the killing of yet another young, black man by law enforcement.

Amir Locke

After Amir Locke was killed on February 2nd, 2022 by Minneapolis SWAT officer Mark Hanneman during the execution of a no-knock search warrant. After the community and state legislators demanded the release of the

body-camera footage, the city of Minneapolis released footage that was less than a minute long. At least eight officers were part of the search warrant on the downtown Minneapolis apartment, yet only footage from one officer, who was not the shooter, was released at first.



The struggle for public data: Tekle Sundberg



Photo credits: Drew Arrieta, Sahan Journal

July 14th, 2022, Minneapolis police snipers shot and killed twenty-year old Tekle Sundberg following an hours-long standoff. Tekle was in the midst of a severe mental health crisis and had shot into his apartment hours earlier, around 9:30 p.m. Tekle had shot into his own bathroom mirror. Minneapolis police failed to negotiate with Tekle and would not let Tekle's father, Mark, try to speak with him. Two Minneapolis police snipers shot and killed Tekle from a building across the street at 4:18 a.m., right before sunrise.

The city waited six days to release a 14 minute long compilation of body-camera footage from the incident. The compilation includes approximately two minutes of footage from the two shooting sniper officers, combined. This video did not clearly show Tekle's final moments. Two months later, the Sundberg family held a press conference requesting that the City re-

lease more footage. As reported by Fox 9,

The Sundbergs have only seen portions of video and are calling for all of it to be released. Other questions raised Wednesday include: Why the police wouldn't let Sundberg's father into the apartment to speak with him? Why police couldn't use less lethal force? Why a mental health or behavioral crisis team wasn't allowed to be part of the negotiations to get Sundberg to surrender?

CUAPB received a video by a concerned witness of the killing of Tekle. CUAPB volunteers took this video and released it at a press conference. Tekle's family, community members, and CUAPB demanded the release of all the footage.

We are still waiting.



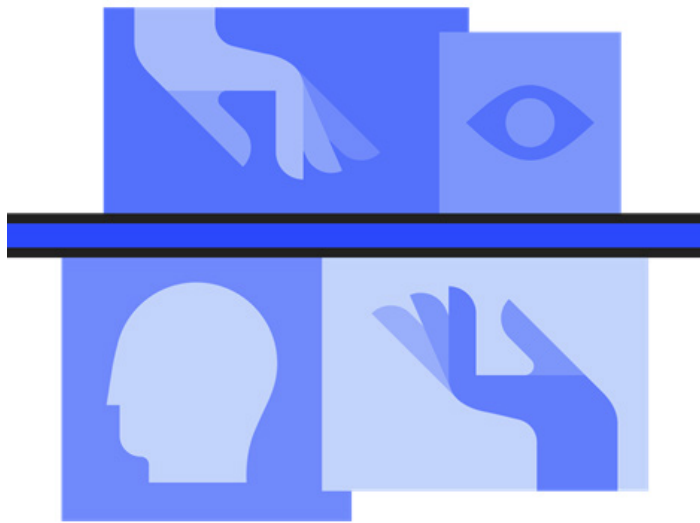
The struggle for public data: Howard Johnson

Across the Mississippi River, Howard Johnson was killed on December 5th, 2022 by St. Paul Police Sergeant Cody Blanshan in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Three days later, the city released a 2-minute and 45 second edited compilation of videos and still images from Blanshan's BWC and another squad car's dash camera. The edited footage shows a small portion of the shooting sergeant's BWC and does not include the sergeant's dash camera video. Kenneth Manning, Howard's stepfather said that the video left a lot more questions than answers. Kenneth and Howard's mother, Monique, demanded immediate release of the full footage. Monique told Kare 11, "I want to know what happened from the beginning, to the end. I don't want bits and pieces. I want to know the truth. I want to know what happened to my child. I want to know it all."

Bits and pieces of footage in any officer involved killing are not enough. Snippets of footage is just police secrecy under the guise of transparency. Most importantly, they fail to show the public the totality of the circumstances that would determine whether or not the shooting meets a reasonable police officer standard.

Bits and pieces of footage in any officer involved killing are not enough. Snippets of footage is just police secrecy under the guise of transparency.





Mental Health Workgroup and Travis' Law

People with untreated mental illnesses are a staggering 16 times more likely to be shot and killed by police. In Minnesota, in a three-week period between November and December 2018, five people experiencing mental health crises were killed during encounters with law enforcement.

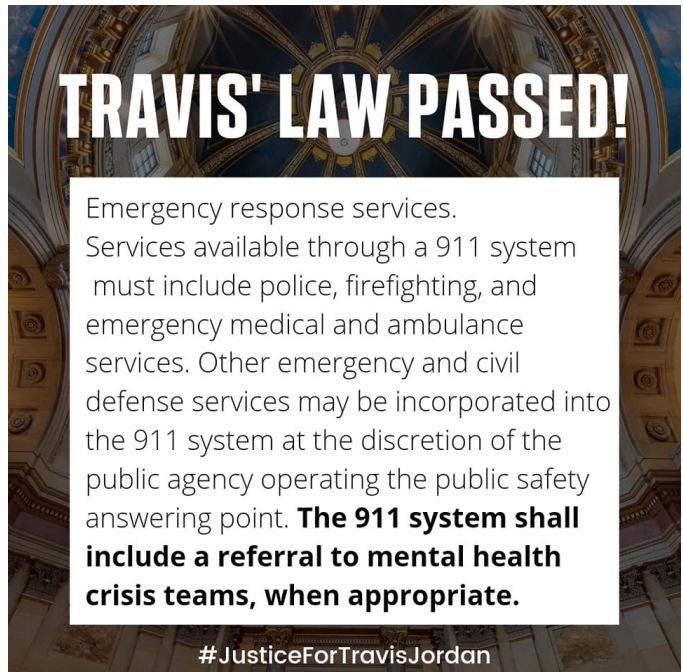
In early 2019, CUAPB initiated our Mental Health Work Group to address this issue. CUAPB has written a white paper on ending police-only responses to mental health crises. It is an informative guide that seeks to ensure people experiencing mental health crises receive care, not criminalization.

In 2021, we took our fight to the legislature with Travis' Law (MN Statute 403.03, Subd. 1b), which requires 911 call centers to send mental health crisis teams, instead of police, to mental health crisis calls. The bill became law on August 31, 2021. Travis' mother, Flo Ching, testified to legislators about the importance of this bill. She said, "If anything can come from the death of my son, this bill will help to make sure that no other family has to go through the pain our family has experienced and that people in mental health crisis will get the care they need."

Since then, we have held workshops for county staff across the state to assist them with implementation. We have also developed an advertising campaign to inform community members of this new right.

If anything can come from the death of my son, this bill will help to make sure that no other family has to go through the pain our family has experienced and that people in mental health crisis will get the care they need.

*Flo Ching
Mother of Travis Jordan, killed by MPD
in the midst of a mental health crisis*





The Reinvestigation Workgroup




Seeking truth in police perpetrated killings

In October of this year, CUAPB's Reinvestigation Workgroup announced the release of seven reinvestigation reports on police killings in Minnesota.

CUAPB has reviewed reports on police killings for years, dating back to the killing of Walter Burks in 2010 and Jamar Clark in 2016 by the Minneapolis Police Department. But after the killing of Thurman Blevins in 2018 by MPD, the Reinvestigation Workgroup formed to help families learn the truth of what happened to their loved one and get justice.

An independent review of these cases is necessary. In the past, police agencies often investigated themselves. Now, a state-wide law enforcement agency investigates these cases and local county attorneys, both of whom need to maintain a non-adversarial relationship with the agencies, have exonerated officers who kill. Our years of work on these cases has uncovered a pattern of untested evidence, biased interviewing techniques, and an unwillingness of prosecutors to charge officers for unauthorized use of deadly force.

In the process of official investigations, families are rarely told what truly happened in their loved ones' final moments. As we talked about earlier, it is a struggle for families to merely access the police reports, photos, body-cam videos, and even autopsy reports of their loved ones death. Because of this, the burden falls on the families to fight to get the data and try to piece together the truth of what happened, all while grieving their loss.



The reality is, these cases are time-consuming and costly. Each reinvestigation takes at least a year to complete. Often experts, such as forensic pathologists, scene reconstructionists, and use-of-force witnesses, are needed to review the evidence and they can cost thousands of dollars.

Families only have three years to grieve, investigate, and raise enough money to file a wrongful death suit. The Reinvestigation Workgroup works with families to relieve that burden. So far, we have worked on the cases of Thurman Blevins, Cordale Handy, Travis Jordan, Kobe Dimock-Heisler, Justin Teigen, and Jaffort Smith. We are currently working on the cases of Marcus Golden, J. Scot Alan Widmark, Demetrius Hill, and Dolal Idd.

Our overarching goal as a workgroup is to get the authentic narrative out to the public. For every police killing, there's a conventional narrative that is spread by the police and the county attorney to avoid holding law enforcement officers accountable. Despite this, we know that "the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

The release of these seven reports is just the beginning of our fight against injustice. Stay tuned to hear about our upcoming battles, both in the courts and in the streets.

CUAPB's Community Canvass & Peoples' Consent Decree

We asked the residents of Minneapolis about their experiences with the Minneapolis Police Department over the past decades. And they spoke. Many courageously retold stories of assault, harassment, discrimination, profiling, verbal abuse, denial of service, failure to investigate serious crimes and unlawful searches and seizures.

CUAPB began canvassing Minneapolis streets in July 2021, shortly after the U.S. Department of Justice announced their investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department for a pattern and practice of excessive use of force and discriminatory policing. After talking to sister organizations in other cities under federal consent decrees, CUAPB recognized that community input would be the most important ingredient to the success of the DOJ's investigation.

CUAPB decided to start a community canvass. For the first summer, canvassers went door to door asking about peoples' experiences with the Minneapolis Police and how they'd like to see policing change in the city. We also held twenty community listening sessions across the City that both educated the community about the investigations and gathered their input on both the problems with the MPD and potential solutions.

This past summer, canvassers concentrated on certain neighborhoods and streets in Minneapolis where people were more likely to have had experiences with MPD. Additionally, CUAPB tabled over the weekends at the Minneapolis Farmers' Market to spread awareness about our work as well as invite community conversation about MPD and the DOJ investigation.

In total, we collected over 2,300 community testimonials. A few themes stuck out to us from our conversations with Minneapolis residents:

- MPD treatment of unsheltered homeless residents. Many unsheltered homeless residents reported harassment by Minneapolis Police Officers. Residents had their meager belongings unlawfully seized or destroyed by officers. Encampments were evicted without notice and often violently.
- MPD failed to investigate murders of Black and Brown community members. Multiple families recounted stories of how the Minneapolis Police Department failed or outright refused to investigate their deaths of their loved ones. MPD allowed evidence to be contaminated, did not properly protect crime scenes, and spoke disrespectfully to murder victims' families.
- The most common complaint from residents was that MPD did not respond to their 911 calls for various issues including: assaults, robbery, stolen property, or even shots fired in their neighborhoods. When officers did show up to their calls, they showed up hours later with an attitude. Some residents eventually stopped calling 911, including one resident who did not call to report a shooting because "[the police] don't ever come."



CUAPB's Peoples' Consent Decree, continued...

These few themes do not scratch the surface of the injustices Minneapolis residents face at the hands of the MPD. All of the experiences collected have been handed over to the Department of Justice and to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for their respective investigations into the MPD.

Beyond our canvass, CUAPB has formed a Department of Justice Working Group. The Workgroup has taken the key elements from the community listening sessions, testimonials, and research to create the People's Consent Decree. The document outlines our key recommendations for what must be included in both state and federal consent decrees to address the racist, sexist, and discriminatory policing practices of the MPD. The People's Consent Decree is still underway and will be released to the public soon.



CUAPB sues Minneapolis City Council over PCOC appointments

Two long-time members of CUAPB, Dave Bicking and Emma Pederson, filed a writ of mandamus in September against the Minneapolis City Council for failing to make appointments to the civilian advisory board of the Minneapolis Police Department.

CUAPB's attorney, Paul Bosman, explained to KSTP 5, "Not only do we want the city to appoint people to the PCOC, but we also want them to answer for why they haven't."

According to city ordinances, the City is obligated to appoint community members to the PCOC. Yet, since December 2020, the city failed to appoint a single Commissioner. Since September 2021, the PCOC has not had enough members to meet its quorum.

The writ of mandamus was filed to ask a judge to compel the City to fill these seats.

Possibly in response to the lawsuit, the City introduced a ordinance change that would dissolve the PCOC and create a "community commission on police oversight," or CCPO. Because of the ordinance change, our lawsuit was dismissed.

The language of the first CCPO proposal would weaken police oversight in the City, even though it was proposed as a step forward. Thanks to effective community organizing by CUAPB members, former chairs of the PCOC, and other community members and groups, the CCPO language was amended. Work is still needed to give the new ordinance actual "teeth" but we are grateful for the changes made thus far.

"Not only do we want the city to appoint people to the PCOC, but we also want them to answer for why they haven't."

Paul Bosman, CUAPB Chief Counsel

Changes made to Peace Officer Standards and Training Board rules

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) board is the state-wide licensing agency for all police officers. Minnesota was the first state in the country to establish a licensing board in 1977 to set rules for who could become a law enforcement officer. Two long-term CUAPB board members, Michelle Gross and Dave Bicking, sat on POST's Rules Advisory Committee since October 2020.

The POST board is in process of amending its rules to set a higher standard for who can become a police officer in Minnesota. The board voted to bar prospective officers from belonging to or supporting white supremacist, hate, or extremist groups. This rule change is extremely important, given rising concerns about white supremacist infiltration into law enforcement across the country.

“There is no greater threat to our constitutional rights in our nation right now than the resurgence of racial supremacy groups.”

Rep. Carlos Mariani

Rep. Carlos Mariani, who served on the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance Committee of the Minnesota House told Kare11, “There is no greater threat to our constitutional rights in our nation right now than the resurgence of racial supremacy groups.”

“We’re trying to bring our practice in line with public expectations, and the public expects the people who enforce the law also follow it,”

Kelly McCarthy, POST Chair

The rule change would also allow the POST board to take disciplinary action against licensees for a broader range of misconduct including: sustained complaints of excessive force, driving under the influence, domestic abuse, assault, felony drug crimes, soliciting prostitutes or theft — even if they weren’t convicted of the crimes.

The rule change also requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies restricting police from interfering in First Amendment-protected activities. Lastly, non-citizens will now be eligible to be licensed peace officers in MN.

“We’re trying to bring our practice in line with public expectations, and the public expects the people who enforce the law also follow it,” POST Chair and Menota Heights Police Chief, Kelly McCarthy told Kare11.

THANK YOU

Without our partnership organizations and coalition members, we would not be able to sustain the fight for justice for stolen lives, their families, and victims of police brutality.

Racial Justice Network

Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence

CAIR-MN

Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar

Be Their Voices MN

Minnesota Justice Coalition

Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro & Minnesota

Cordale Q. Handy In Remembrance of Me Foundation

Native Lives Matter

and so many more....

A special thank you to our movement photojournalists and independent media, Unicorn Riot, KingDemetrius Pendleton, Louie Tran, Phil Ward, Emma Leigh, Brixton Hughes and others.





How Much Justice Can You Afford?

When a member of our community dies at the hands of law enforcement, there are giant hurdles in the way of justice for their families and the community. The investigation of the killing is handled by law enforcement itself, and then handed off to prosecutors whose daily work depends on the support of law enforcement. No wonder that only a handful of police officers have ever been convicted in the killing of a citizen in Minnesota, and that one of those has been downgraded from murder to manslaughter. This leaves lawsuits in civil court as the only kind of justice available to families of stolen lives. It can't bring back the stolen, or fire the cops, but it may be the only chance for families to tell the stories of the theft of their loved one's life. But even this justice does not come easy.

The killing of a community member at the hands of law enforcement leaves a scar on whole community, but for the families of these stolen lives, the question comes down to "How much Justice can you afford?" While Communities United Against Police Brutality helps by re-investigating the law enforcement narratives, and often helping families find an attorney, that is only the beginning of bringing a lawsuit against the police.

That's where the Stolen Lives Justice Fund comes in. The costs of a lawsuit against the police are stiff: filing fees, fees for documents, deposition costs for stenographers, videographers, and rented conference rooms, fees for transcripts, hundreds of dollars an hour for expert witnesses on crime scene reconstruction, on police procedure, on the pathology of bullet wounds, and thousands of dollars for their reports.

**Who will
protect your
rights if you
won't protect
theirs?**



The thing is that cities and states don't have to worry about these costs to defend killer cops, because you are paying them through the taxes that are taken from your paycheck or added to your lunch tab, and you can't do much about that. But you can choose to help the families of stolen lives; you can even the odds for the community through your donation to the Stolen Lives Justice Fund.

So how much justice can you afford?

Can you give \$5 per month to pay for an hour of stenographer time at the deposition of a killer cop?

Can you give \$15 per month to pay for the filing of a lawsuit that lets the story finally be told at the courthouse?

Can you give \$25 per month to pay for an hour of expert witness time, so that someone can tell the cops that they are wrong?

Choose an amount and help us get justice for the families of stolen lives.

**Communities United
Against Police
Brutality is a Twin-
Cities based non-profit
organization that was
created to deal with
police brutality on an
ongoing basis.**

**24/7 Police Brutality
Hotline: 612-874-7867**

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SLJF

*The **Stolen Lives Justice Fund** pays for court filing fees, independent autopsies and investigations, and other needs of families of people killed by police. Because we have no paid staff, 100% of your contribution goes to direct aid for families of stolen lives.*

☐ \$5 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

Please give any amount. Or please consider joining a monthly subscription to the SLJF today:



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