

צדק צדק תרדף

TZEDEK, TZEDEK, TIRDOF!



המשטרה תבוטל

JEWISH PEOPLE MUST STAND UP & FIGHT FOR
BLACK LIVES AND DEFUND THE POLICE

Division: 3 DISTRICT	Incident/Investigation Report		
Beat: 322			
Agency: LMPD	Case Number: 80-20-017049	Case Status: OPEN ACTIVE	

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Incident Information			
Date/Time Reported	Date/Time From	Date/Time To	Officer
03/13/2020 00:43	03/13/2020 00:43	03/13/2020 00:43	(2686) LEE, OMAR A
Incident Location			
SPRINGFIELD DR Apt. LOUISVILLE, KY 40214			

Notes/Narratives
PUBLIC NARRATIVE

Just after midnight on March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor was shot at least eight times by three police officers after she awoke from her sleep to the sound of a battering ram breaking down her front door. Her murderers - John Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove - were executing a no-knock warrant as part of a narcotics investigation, but were inexplicably at the wrong home, on the wrong street, in the wrong neighborhood. The man they were seeking had already been arrested earlier that day. There were no narcotics found in Breonna's home, and no evidence that she used or sold narcotics.

Kenneth Walker, Breonna's boyfriend, fired his legally owned and licensed gun at who he thought was a home intruder. He was subsequently charged and arrested for assault and attempted murder of a police officer, and fought the charges for months before they were dropped, and he was released.

Breonna was an award-winning emergency room technician on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic: an essential worker. She survived a global pandemic that is disproportionately killing Black people, only to be killed by three plainclothes police officers in her own home in the middle of the night. Her life was taken by the people sworn to protect her.

There has been almost no accountability for this heinous crime. Brett Hankison has been fired, which he's already appealed, while his accomplices keep their jobs, and all three keep their pensions. None of the three officers have been arrested. They remain free while Breonna's family mourns her loss and fights for justice.

On June 1, David McAtee was murdered outside his BBQ stand by the Kentucky National Guard and LMPD. They opened fire on him after turning all of their body cams tuned off. David was unarmed. His body was left in the street for over 12 hours.

Charges					
1	Charge Type	Description	Statute	UCR	Att
		DEATH INVESTIGATION - LMPD INVOLVED	DI001	999	<input type="checkbox"/> Att <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Com
Alcohol, Drugs or Computers Used		Location Type	Premises Entered	Forced Entry	Weapons
<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Computers		RESIDENCE / HOME	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	1. Handgun
Entry	Exit	Criminal Activity			2.
					3.
Bias Motivation		Bias Target	Bias Circumstances		Hate Group
NONE (NO BIAS)					

Victims					
Seq. #	Type	Injuries	Residency Status	Ethnicity	
1	INDIVIDUAL	None	Resident	Non-Hispanic	
Name (Last, First, M)			Race	Sex	DOB
TAYLOR, BREONNA SHAQUILLE			B	F	
Address			Home Phone		
Employer Name/Address			Business Phone		
Victim of Crimes			Cell Phone		
1					

Offenders								
Seq. #	Type	Name (Last, First, M)	Race	Sex	DOB	Age	Height	Weight
1	POLICE (LAW)	MATTINGLY, JON	M	M		47		
AKA								
Seq. #	Type	Name (Last, First, M)	Race	Sex	DOB	Age	Height	Weight
2	POLICE (LAW)	COSGROVE, MYLES 7519	W	M		42		
AKA								
Seq. #	Type	Name (Last, First, M)	Race	Sex	DOB	Age	Height	Weight
3	POLICE (LAW)	HANKISON, BRETT 6150	W	M		44		
AKA								

LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT RELEASED THIS INCIDENT REPORT OF BREONNA TAYLOR'S MURDER NEARLY THREE MONTHS AFTER THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. THEY LISTED HER INJURIES AS "NONE" BUT SHE DIED DURING THE INCIDENT AT THE HANDS OF LMPD. THEY CHECKED THE "NO" BOX UNDER FORCED ENTRY, BUT USED A BATTERING RAM TO ENTER HER HOME. THEY LEFT THE NARRATIVE SECTION COMPLETELY BLANK, BUT THE FOLLOWING IS WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE SAID.

On June 1, David McAtee was murdered outside his BBQ stand by the Kentucky National Guard and LMPD. They opened fire on him after turning all of their body cams tuned off. David was unarmed. His body was left in the street for over 12 hours.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

For a reason I cannot adequately articulate yet, I felt called to do something to support the Louisville protesters in late May. But I worried about safety. I, like many others, had been watching the news and saw videos of looting and physical violence, and I assumed this to be the whole truth. After much deliberation, we decided to purchase supplies for the protesters and drop them off **"as close as we could safely get."** The immense amount of privilege that allowed me to even assess the safety of the situation before deciding how and when to engage is not lost on me.

We got downtown easily; no riots, tire irons, or Molotov cocktails to be found. Just human beings. People gathering in a park in front of our City Hall and Hall of Justice. Volunteers helping people carry supplies and donations to the park, surveying them for anything dangerous, organizing for distribution, and taking stock of what was still needed. I am embarrassed to think back on all the fear I felt on the drive down there, believing that everything on the news about riots and violence was the only truth to be told and how my privilege contributed to my fear of the protesters.

Feeling the energy in the air as I dropped off the supplies, I went back to the car and told my husband to get out; we were going to march. As we were leaving, we had to wait at an intersection for the parade of police in riot gear to march by. Tight formation. Full gear. Guns. Shields. Batons. Bullet proof vests. I thought of all the people in the park who showed up armed only with bottles of water, jugs of milk, posters, a few megaphones, and the occasional backpack. **I feared for their lives.**

Later that night, a video started making the rounds. You could see uniformed and non-uniformed law enforcement destroying all the donated items on site. Smashing milk jugs, stabbing water bottles, throwing the boxes (ours included) into the back of a truck. When protesters begged them to stop, more armed officers created a barricade to protect their fellow cops. The police and Mayor later claimed they were destroyed because there were *"reports of explosives and other dangerous items"* mixed in. I can assure you that was a lie.

I was devastated. I'm not going to lie and say my first sense of despair was for the protesters. I was upset that all the money and time we spent purchasing, organizing, and distributing those supplies was wasted. We couldn't afford to rebuild the same stock.

"We were doing something nice and they ruined it. We didn't do anything wrong; there was nothing illegal or dangerous in those bags or boxes," I said to my husband through my tears. He put his

arms around me and calmly said, **"How do you think Black people feel every day of their lives?"**

I was raised by actively anti-racist parents and spent my entire childhood attending anti-racist events and programs. How could I have been so out of touch? When did I stop fighting? How did I come to commit such a betrayal of my upbringing and everything my parents taught me?

We showed up to marches every night for the next week greeted by strict formations and barricades of fully armed police and National Guard in riot gear, as we chanted **"Hands up, don't shoot."** I never felt unsafe when walking with other protesters. But our militarized police scared me to my core. Their gear incited hostility. Their presence was threatening. They provoked danger. Not the other way around.

The answer? I have always known what racism is and that it is as pervasive as it is wrong, but I never had to feel it for myself. Yes, I'm a Jewish woman in the south - no doubt, a minority. But my skin color has always protected me. Why did it have to take seeing this firsthand for me to wake up to the truth? And there is my truth, and likely the truth of many. We see, hear, and even say a lot, but until it happens to us, until we FEEL it ourselves, is it real?

If I can feel so angry and upset over boxes of supplies and the money it took to purchase them, imagine what it feels like to spend your every waking, sleeping, living, breathing moment trying to survive in this world only to have it ripped from you in a second with a single bullet. Or a knee. Or a car. Or a fist. Or a rope. Just because your skin isn't white. Imagine what it feels like to wake up and go to work every day to face the harsh truth that because of the color of your skin, you will never have the same pay or opportunity as your white colleague. That the color of your skin is seen as a threat. That the color of your skin presumes danger, unintelligence, dishonesty, laziness, or filth. That every time you demand justice, the safety of property and profits take priority over people.

Hillel taught us, **"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"** I am fortunate enough to have had this *"awakening"* while there is still time left to make things right. But time is fading fast, and the luxuries of privilege afforded to many of us won't last forever. Don't wait until it is happening to you to wake up to the truth that **"an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"** - even a threat to you - because by then, it may be too late.

[WRITTEN BY COREY BUCKMAN]

POLICE VIOLENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MEANS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION, MEANT TO KILL [AND INSTILL FEAR IN] THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

Police are not required to document the use of “standard crowd-control weapons” [tear gas, pepper-balls, rubber bullets, etc.] Resulting in excessive use, unabated violence, and zero accountability for the serious injuries and deaths these weapons cause. This is state sanctioned violence; our laws protect The Police, not The People.

CHEMICAL WEAPON

“TEAR GAS”

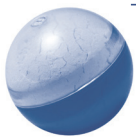
Tear gas is a chemical weapon that causes severe eye and respiratory pain, skin irritation, bleeding, and blindness. The canister warning itself states “Danger: Do not fire directly at person(s). Severe injury or death may result.” Using a weapon that targets the lungs in the midst of a global pandemic where people are dying from respiratory failure is depraved and unconscionable.

The 1925 Geneva Protocol banned use of tear gas in warfare, so how can it legally be used against peaceful protesters? Under the Protocol the United States reserved the right to use “riot control agents” - Our elected officials ensured their right to use violence against their own citizens. Police Violence keeps the ruling class safe because that’s what it’s supposed to do.

FRANGIBLE PROJECTILE

“PEPPER-BALL”

Pepper-balls are shot at 280-350 FPS, leaving large red welts and bursting on impact. They release capsaicin, the chemical irritant derived from peppers that is also used in pepper spray. It is typically a fine powder, light enough to float through the air and inflict severe pain in the eyes, nose, throat and lungs of the target and those in the nearby vicinity.



*** ACTUAL SIZE ***

.68 caliber // 1.72 cm

[Engineered by Dr. K. Loghman for the FBI in the 1980s, who deeply regretted his invention after it was used on peaceful protesters @ UC Davis in 2011.]

L3A1 PROJECTILE

“RUBBER BULLET”

[Misnomer to mislead public perception of deadly weaponry. Categorized as a nonlethal weapon, but known to cause serious injury + death when shot directly at targets, as officers have been recorded doing.]



*** ACTUAL SIZE ***



6 caliber // 15.24 cm

1.5 caliber // 3.81 cm

צדק צדק תרום

ברוך אתה " אלהינו מלך העולם מתיך אסורים



JUSTICE, JUSTICE YOU SHALL PURSUE!

JUDAISM IS A CALL TO ACTION:

Saying a blessing in Judaism is intrinsically tied to taking action. We don't pause between saying the blessing and eating the bread. Instead, there is the blessing, "Hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz", and then bread is eaten, with no talking to interrupt. **The blessing propels us to action.**

In the Jewish daily prayer service, a blessing is said for a God who **"releases the captives who are bound."** This blessing demonstrates why it should be a Jewish priority to defund the police.

In ancient and medieval times, Jews, as an 'othered' people, could easily be jailed or tortured for minor crimes or misdemeanors. They were also often held for ransom, extorted, and made to pay unjust taxes. "Throughout history, Jewish communities have had to respond to the capture of their people. There are stories from Talmudic to medieval times of the great efforts and high prices that Jewish communities have paid in order to redeem their own from captivity" (Rabbi Sarah Wolf). As systemically oppressed people, this blessing praises God and 'elevates' that action of working above and beyond for those held captive, to be free.

We see that Black people are held captive through unjust laws, oppressive forces that use choke holds, and systemic racism that is rooted in the American 'Justice System'. It is imperative to go above and beyond, and that means we must defund the police and replace police work with more compassionate alternatives (e.g. social workers, mental health professionals, legal mediators, etc). Only in doing this, can we ensure that laws cannot be used to murder, brutalize, humiliate and erase those who aren't white, who aren't powerful, or who aren't wealthy.

This blessing is a call to action. "Blessed are you, our God, sovereign of the universe, who releases those bound in captivity." We must defund this racist system. Our mandate, as it calls out to us in the Torah and is fulfilled by the Prophets: "Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof - Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue!"

[WRITTEN BY DAVID CHACK]

HOW WILL DEFUNDING THE POLICE MAKE US ALL SAFER?

Cities in the United States spend a staggering \$100 billion per year on policing and \$80 billion per year on corrections. Since President Johnson began the **War on Crime** in the 1960s, emphasis on crime control resulted in national increases in law enforcement budgets, rather than social programs that get to the root causes of crime and poverty.

JOHNSON'S BELIEF THAT BLACK PATHOLOGY CAUSED POVERTY AND CRIME LEAD TO BLACK COMMUNITIES BEING SATURATED WITH SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT AND POLICE OFFICERS.

Police make about 10.5 million arrests every year, but fewer than 5% are for violent crimes. Arrests for drug offenses have risen since the **War on Drugs** in the 1980s + Nonviolent offenders and communities with an increased police presence were victims of excessive policing and long, harsh sentences. Police have proven they are professionals when it comes to enforcing racist policies, but how good are they at keeping us safe?

NIXON INTRODUCED POLICIES TO REDUCE THE DRUG TRADE, BUT FAILED TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON DRUG USE/SALES AND INSTEAD RESULTED IN MASS INCARCERATION + CRIMINALIZED PEOPLE WITH ADDICTIONS.

94%

OF RAPISTS NEVER SERVE A SINGLE DAY IN JAIL

33%

OF MURDERS WILL GO UNSOLVED

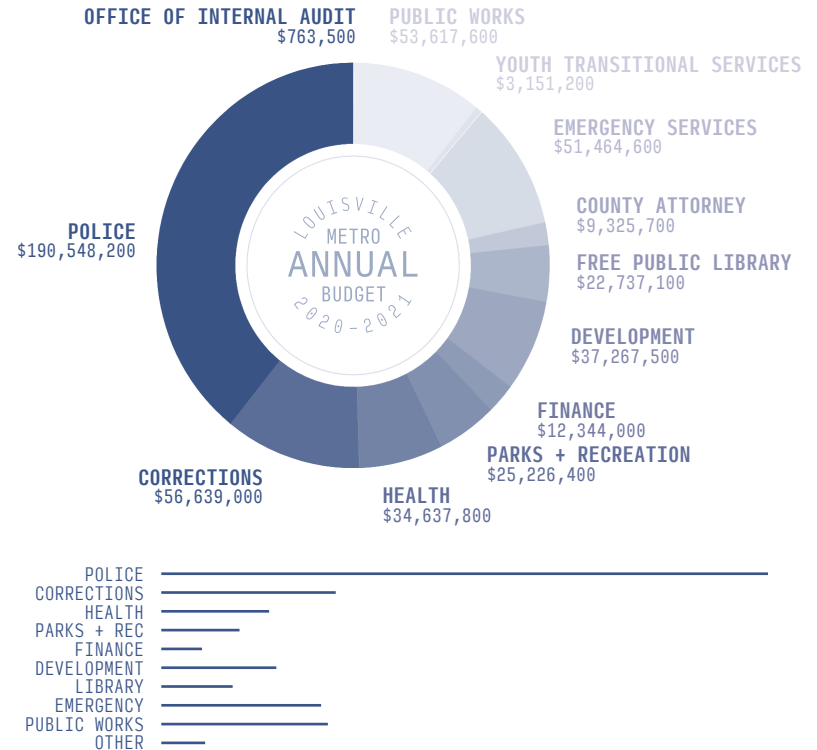
60%

OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS WEREN'T ARRESTED OR CHARGED

Police officers are notoriously bad at dealing with cases of rape, they are not successful at solving murders, and they fail to arrest domestic abuse offenders. 40% of cops are domestic abusers themselves. For every 1000 cases of rape, only 230 people feel comfortable reporting, and of those reported only 46 are arrested, 9 are prosecuted, and 5 are convicted. Police are responsible for 5-6% of murders. The police do not have a duty to keep us safe. The Federal Court has ruled so multiple times.

"Neither the Constitution, nor state law, impose a general duty upon police officers or other governmental officials to protect individual persons from harm - even when they know the harm will occur." [D.L. Hutchinson]

Almost half of the Louisville metro budget goes directly to police and corrections. The city's 2020-2021 budget carved \$190.6 million for the LMPD. So far, the department has spent \$3 million in overtime responding to nightly protests. Has the presence of police deploying rubber bullets and tear gas made you feel safer?



Black Lives Matter Louisville along with other community activists have proposed a solution- the invest/divest model as an alternative to spending millions to further militarize the police and keep people with non-violent charges locked up.

By following this model, Louisville divests from policing and corrections and instead invests in the community they serve by investing the money in community resources such as housing, education, health, transportation, food security, and jobs. We've invested in policing and corrections for decades. Now it's time to invest in ourselves and build a safer, stronger community.

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY.

Civil rights activist and pioneer of Socialist thought, W.E.B. Du Bois first presented the idea of *abolition-democracy* in the 1930s, which advocated for the abolition of institutions rooted in racist and repressive practices. The police were founded as a slave patrol to capture and return escaped slaves, and to enforce Jim Crow laws, i.e. the segregation of schools, restrooms, restaurants, and all other public places. The police were a weapon designed to repress Black citizens and senselessly take their lives. Reforming the police has brought the police to where they are today.

Today the police possess a tremendous amount of money and power in our society. On 06.25.2020, Louisville Metro Government awarded \$763,500 to the Criminal Justice Commission to fund a civilian oversight system as a direct response to LMPD's murder of black civilians like Breonna Taylor and David McAtee. This was not the only instance of money being awarded to this racist institution. LMPD was also directed to reallocate \$1.2 million from their budget to place behavioral health specialists with officers and \$1.6 million from their budget to recruit officers that more closely look like their community. As of 07.13.2020, less than 2% of LMPD officers are Black, and the Black community they are failing to protect accounts for nearly 24% of the city. LMPD's ever increasing budget is leaving them with an ever increasing list of responsibilities, and giving an agency born of white supremacy so much responsibility has deadly consequences.

When someone in the community is in need due to homelessness, mental health crises, or substance abuse, the police are tasked with responding. They're equipped with enough weapons to kill someone 12 different ways within two seconds but lack the training to solve the problems they encounter with anything other than violence and intimidation. The police are not equipped with licenses to provide therapy, and they haven't had years of training in de-escalation. Even the police have criticized that they are tasked to be everything to everyone.

If we unbundle the services the police are expected to provide, we could instead deploy the most appropriate help when someone is in need. Instead of sending the police to every possible problem, we could provide specialized response teams—social workers, emergency medical technicians, conflict resolution specialists, restorative justice teams, and other community-based professionals.

By defunding the police, we can instead invest in our community and promote public safety for all.

*Of what shall a living man complain? Each one of his own sins!
Let us search and examine our ways,
Because my people is shattered I am shattered; I am dejected,
seized by desolation.*

[Lamentations, 3:39-40, traditional reading on Tisha B'av]

On Tisha b'av, the saddest day of the Jewish year, we mourn the destruction of both the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem, as well as the acts of antisemitism that have slaughtered our people throughout the ages. We sit shiva across the centuries in mass formation.

We carry that grief and anguish with us always.
We never put it down.

It is traditional to abstain from comforts on Tisha b'av, including a twenty-five hour fast. The Shabbat that follows Tisha b'av, however, is called Shabbat Nahamu, the Shabbat of comfort. This leads us into the period of reflection that signifies the High Holy Days. What if we took Tisha b'av and not only mourned the losses of the Jewish people, but those of oppressed peoples? What if instead of leaning into a Shabbat of comfort, we sought out discomfort in ourselves to make the world a better place?

OUR ACTIONS MATTER. We can turn a day of mourning into a lifetime of action. Let us work together so that others do not sit shiva needlessly, that the systems that oppress are dismantled, that we all fear no retribution. May we all practice teshuvah.

[THIS ZINE WAS RELEASED ON TISHA B'AV | JULY 29-30, 2020]

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP RIGHT NOW:

01 **GET IN THE STREETS.** Protests in Louisville are on-going. Join organizations like SURJ [Showing Up for Racial Justice], BLM [Black Lives Matter], The Bail Project, and more at protests and demonstrations in neighborhoods all across Louisville.

02 **DONATE.** Open your purse and give what you can to people in need and organizations doing the work. Donate to black trans women. Donate to your local bail fund. Redistribute your wealth in equitable ways. Help reverse the systemic disenfranchisement of marginalized people.

03 **CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.** Demand justice for Breonna Taylor. Demand Justice for David McAtee. Demand that Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove are fired and their pensions revoked. Demand that Metro Council divest our city's budget from LMPD. Call Mayor Fischer @ 844.298.2731 and write him a letter using the last page of this zine.

04 **LEARN AND UNLEARN.** Read this zine. Read texts written by Black people. Listen to Black people. Learn about where your biases come from, and unpack them. Learn about the history of systemic racism and how it impacts our world today. Make mistakes. Question everything.

CREATED BY BEND THE ARC: JEWISH ACTION LOUISVILLE
WE ARE A PROGRESSIVE JEWISH ORGANIZATION FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH OUR ORG, PLEASE EMAIL US: BENDTHEARCLLOUISVILLE@GMAIL.COM

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