

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 and Cardinale justified in using deadly force. D.A. Phillips concluded that “[N]o 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 the incident. On July 17 at a city council meeting, relatives, and 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 and the meeting was ended by the Mayor. On Aug. 27 members of the memorial service threw rocks and bricks at the police. Three of Michael's brothers—Calvin, Donald and Basil—were arrested.

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 and stop this dangerous practice immediately,” said Al Gerhardstein, an attorney representing the family. “Corey is not the first person to die after being tased and 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 him 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.