

MAP OF RACIALIZED POLICING IN AURORA

Darsean Kelley

Date: February 19, 2016

Location: 1400 block N. Dallas St., Aurora

Summary: An Aurora officer stopped Darsean Kelley, an African-American man who happened to be in the vicinity of a reported crime. Mr. Kelley asked whether or not he was being detained and asserted, "I know my rights." For that, an Aurora officer tased the unarmed Mr. Kelley in the back.

Result: The officer charged Mr. Kelley with failure to follow a lawful order. The charge was dismissed and Aurora paid ACLU client, Mr. Kelley, \$110,000 to settle his legal claims. Aurora found the officer had engaged in no wrongdoing.



Jamaal Bonner

Date: December 2003

Location: 10890 E Colfax Ave., Aurora

Summary: Aurora police officers shot and killed Jamaal Bonner during a prostitution sting. When an Aurora SWAT team burst into his hotel room and Mr. Bonner didn't take his hand out of his pocket quickly enough, an Aurora officer tased him. While Mr. Bonner lay on the floor unarmed, an officer shot him three times in the back, killing him.

Result: None of the officers involved in this unconstitutional use of excessive force was ever disciplined. Aurora paid \$610,000 to settle the family's legal claims.



Carla Meza

Date: February 12, 2009

Location: 3000 block Wheeling St., Aurora

Summary: Aurora officers responded to a domestic violence report by making homophobic remarks and arresting Carla Meza without a warrant. When she refused to comply with the officer's unlawful commands, she was kicked in the head while handcuffed, breaking her eye socket.

Result: Aurora paid \$85,000 to settle the suit. The officer was found to have used excessive force by an internal investigation and fired, but Aurora's Civil Service Commission reinstated him and awarded back pay.

Omar Hassan

Date: March 16, 2016

Location: Caribou Coffee, 13700 E Colfax Ave., Aurora

Summary: When Omar Hassan, who was wearing a hoodie, bought a muffin in a coffee shop and sat down to eat it, two Aurora police officers told Mr. Hassan that he had to leave because his, "kind of business is not welcome here." One officer placed her hand on her gun, non-verbally threatening Mr. Hassan with use of deadly force.

Result: Aurora paid \$40,000 to Mr. Hassan, an ACLU client. None of the officers involved were ever disciplined for their actions.



Naeschylus Carter-Vinzant

Date: March 6, 2015

Location: E 12th Ave. and Laredo St., Aurora

Summary: Aurora's SWAT team was pursuing Naeschylus Vinzant-Carter, who had removed an ankle monitor, when an officer opened fire, killing the unarmed African American man.

Result: Aurora paid \$2,600,000 to settle his family's claims. The officer was not disciplined.



Brandon Washington*

Vanessa Peoples

Date: July 13, 2017

Location: 1000 block N Del Mar Parkway, Aurora

Summary: Aurora police were performing a welfare check at the home of Vanessa Peoples. An officer choked and slammed her to the ground when she was trying to check on her mother in the other room. The officers hog-tied Ms. Peoples so tightly that they dislocated her shoulder. Though she was unarmed and cooperative, the officers kept her hog-tied for 30 minutes.

Result: The Aurora Police charged Ms. Peoples with obstruction, a charge later dismissed. She settled her claims for \$100,000. None of the officers involved were ever disciplined.



Juan Contreras

Date: July 23, 2011

Location: Family Dollar store parking lot, 12100 E Colfax Ave, Aurora

Summary: While conducting an impromptu undercover police investigation, an Aurora police officer shot and killed Juan Contreras, a Hispanic man wrongfully suspected of committing a minor crime

Result: Aurora paid \$400,000 to settle his family's claims. No officers were disciplined for their role in the shooting.



Dwight Crews

Date: November 14, 2015

Location: 700 block N Fraser St., Aurora

Summary: In the middle of the night, two Aurora police officers ordered Dwight Crews, a 60-year-old, disabled, African-American man, to exit his home, even though the officers had no warrant. When Mr. Crews paused to try and prevent his cat from getting out of the house, the officers assaulted and handcuffed him.

Result: The officers charged Mr. Crews with resisting arrest. A judge dismissed the charge at trial. Aurora paid Mr. Crews, an ACLU client, \$35,000. The two officers were never disciplined.



Aurora

Jamie Alberto Torres

Date: November 21, 2017

Location: 1000 block S Troy St., Aurora

Summary: Jamie Alberto Torres was fixing a car in his garage with friends when a neighbor complained about noise. Two Aurora police illegally ordered Mr. Torres to exit his own garage, threatening to take him to jail. Because Mr. Torres paused momentarily before complying, the officers repeatedly wrenched his arm behind his back and slammed his face against the ground.

Result: The officers charged Mr. Torres with resisting arrest and failure to follow a lawful order. A jury acquitted Mr. Torres of both charges at trial. An internal investigation by the Aurora Police Department found no wrongdoing.



Cassidy Tate

Date: June 2006

Location: 15250 E Mississippi Ave., Aurora

Summary: An Aurora police officer choked, slapped, and slammed to the ground twelve-year-old Cassidy Tate, fracturing her shoulder. The officer accused the girl's mother of illegally parking in a handicapped spot, stating "Can you believe these fucking N's," despite the fact that Ms. Tate's mother had a handicap placard and used portable oxygen.

Result: Ms. Tate settled her claims for \$175,000. The officer was later promoted until he was caught on body camera footage referring to African-Americans as "Alabama Porch Monkeys." The officer was then terminated by the Aurora Police Department, but the City of Aurora reinstated him.



OyZhana Williams

Date: December 22, 2015

Location: UC Health emergency room, 15300 E Mississippi Ave., Aurora

Summary: An Aurora police officer assaulted OyZhana Williams while she was visiting her boyfriend in the hospital. When Ms. Williams refused the officer's illegal order that she give him the keys to her car, the officer tackled Ms. Williams, choked her, and slammed her head against the ground.

Result: The officers charged Ms. Williams with assaulting an officer and she spent Christmas in jail on these bogus charges. The charge was dismissed. Aurora paid over \$350,000 to settle Ms. Williams' claims. None of the officers were disciplined.



Rickey Burrell

Date: December 18, 2010

Location: 1000 block S. Yampa St., Aurora

Summary: Aurora police officers responded to a 911 call from Rickey Burrell's family, after he suffered a seizure and was lying helplessly in bed. Rather than render assistance, the officers wrenched his arm behind his back, handcuffed him and roughly dragged him outside, fracturing his wrist as he yelled, "You all are hurting me. You're killing me. I haven't done anything."

Result: Aurora paid \$100,000 to settle Mr. Burrell's claims. None of the officers involved in this unconstitutional use of excessive force were ever disciplined.



*Brandon Washington

Date: April 22, 2017

Location: Intersection of Peoria St. and 17th Ave., Aurora

Summary: Aurora Police officers responded to an automobile accident in which Brandon Washington was involved. They tasered and assaulted him when, still in shock from the accident, he questioned their command that he exit his vehicle. They ignored Mr. Washington (who has asthma) as he yelled, "I can't breathe."

Result: The officers charged Mr. Washington with several crimes, including resisting arrest. The charge was dismissed and none of the officers were disciplined.



OVER \$4.6 MILLION PAID BY AURORA POLICE FOR BRUTALIZING PEOPLE OF COLOR SINCE 2003

ACLU Colorado