

Pellerin Family Statement After Viewing Bodycam Footage

DATE: September 21, 2020

To the Lafayette Community:

Following the Pellerin family's successful attempt to have the restraining order of three John Doe cops dismissed last Tuesday, the Office of Mayor-President Josh Guillory was able to make good on his September 4, 2020 promise to the Pellerins. On Friday, Trayford's parents finally viewed just one of the dozens of police footage videos (28 days after their son was killed by the Lafayette Police Department).

Pursuant to the arrangement between Mayor Guillory's office and the Pellerin family, the video selected by the city pixelated any identifying information of the officers. The footage lasted about 20 minutes and was accompanied by audio.

Cedrick Pellerin, Michelle Pellerin, their families, and their supporters want to thank Mayor-President Guillory for keeping his word. The City of Lafayette stood alongside the Pellerin lawyers in court and fought the unjustified TRO filed on behalf of three anonymous cops. And as soon as that battle was won, the mayor's office saw to it that the footage was made available to the Pellerins without further delay. For those efforts, we are appreciative.

Regarding the footage of Trayford's homicide, it is important to note that the Pellerins saw only one video of about 40 such videos (between the dashcams and bodycams of many responding officers). The provided video did not belong to one of the three officers who shot Trayford, but the shooting itself is completely visible.

And while the footage fails to answer many of the family's questions, several facts are crystal clear:

- 1) Trayford should be alive today — the shooting was not warranted
- 2) No actual crime was articulated to police or witnessed by police
- 3) In response to the first officer on scene, Trayford put his hands in the air, exposed his empty palms, and revealed nothing in either hand
- 4) Trayford never once ran from police or made a single threatening gesture to any officer
- 5) Cops allowed Trayford to slowly walk unimpeded for hundreds of yards before he reached the Shell station parking lot (where he was ultimately shot at least 10 times)
- 6) One cop admitted to having a "bad taser," which failed to deploy
- 7) At least two cops were seen using their own knives to remove articles of Trayford's clothing following the shooting (and were told on camera to leave the knives on the scene)
- 8) Trayford's limp body was handcuffed not once, but twice after being gunned down
- 9) While a leashed K-9 dog was only feet away from Trayford at the time of the killing, it was never used
- 10) No rubber bullets were used
- 11) No officer shot to wound Trayford (for example, below his waist); all visible entry wounds were shots to kill
- 12) The police failed to utilize a myriad of tactics available to the dozens of officers on scene to prevent Trayford from getting anywhere near the Shell station entrance

At this time, the Pellerins request privacy, as they grieve the untimely and avoidable loss of Trayford. Beyond being heart-wrenching, shocking, and nauseating, the video reinforced what the Pellerins already knew — that their son would be alive today if cops saw themselves in those they pursue. But until then, the fight for justice continues...

We remain,

The Pellerin Family Legal Team

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