

Black Lives Matter and Family of Unarmed Black Man killed by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to Speak Publicly About Lawsuit

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Contact: Mark-Anthony Johnson (818) 259-1322
Spanish Media Liaison: Guadalupe Chavez (323) 979-6550

Press Conference: Tuesday August 9th, 10:00 AM, outside the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street 90012

Los Angeles, C.A. – The family of Donnell Thompson, Jr. accompanied by Black Lives Matter Long Beach, Dignity and Power Now, and the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence will address the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 9th to assert that Donnell was unarmed and wrongfully killed by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies in Compton on July 28th.

27-year-old Thompson was described to the media as a carjacking suspect by Compton Station deputies after his fatal shooting on the 28th. Earlier they had stopped a motorist for a routine traffic violation. A check of the vehicle's license plate indicated the vehicle had been stolen. A car chase ensued and shots were fired, striking the deputies' patrol vehicle. The car crashed into a curb and a suspect got out, prompting at least one deputy to open fire. Deputies allege that Thompson was hiding in the yard of a residence on the 800 block of Stockwell Street and refused to obey LASD Special Enforcement Bureau commands to surrender. It is alleged that Thompson charged at the deputies. A deputy-involved shooting occurred. Thompson was pronounced dead at the scene. No weapons were recovered.

Family members maintain that Thompson was unarmed, targeted, and gunned down by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department while minding his own business. They also assert that he was left naked on the sidewalk for hours after he was killed. The family has retained the Cochran Firm for legal representation and say they plan to hold the sheriff's department accountable for Donnell's death.

"The tragic and gratuitous death of Donnell Thompson, Jr. adds to what is a national state of emergency for Black people and law enforcement excessive force," says Mark-Anthony Johnson, Health and Wellness Director of Dignity and Power Now. "Nothing expresses this crisis more accurately than the words of the families left behind to deal with the trauma. We stand in support of the Thompson family and are working toward effective civilian oversight in the memory of Donnell and all Black people harmed by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies, both inside and outside the jails."

The Thompson family will be available to speak to press.

3655 S. Grand Ave.
Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA
90003

(213) 745-7135

dignityandpowernow.org