

The Nicholas Robertson Verdict Should Make Headlines Precisely Because the LASD Thinks It Won't

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Los Angeles, CA – 28-year-old **Nicholas Robertson** died after being shot 17 times by deputies assigned to the Lynwood Sheriff's Station in 2015 in front of an Arco gas station near the intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and Magnolia Avenue. At the time the sheriff's department claimed that Nicholas pointed a gun at them, that even after he was shot he continued to reach for a weapon, and that they feared for their lives. The LASD immediately released deceptive video stills to the media that helped support their claim.

Today the Cochran Firm has announced that a jury awarded the children of Nicholas Robertson \$3.6 million dollars in a wrongful death lawsuit. Multiple videos show that Nicholas was walking away from the deputies when they fired 30 shots at him, 17 striking and killing him. The gun Nicholas was holding at the time was not loaded.

These tactics used by the LASD to paint false pictures and defer investigations are deliberate and strategic. Because Nicholas was killed in 2015, it is likely that more news articles will have been written immediately after the incident with the LASD's false narrative than now that the truth has finally been validated. Because this investigation is more than a year old, it is unlikely the deputies will be disciplined. These practices are what allows corruption and violence to run rampant in the department and what gives deputies the audacity to commit murder again and again.

There is no excuse for what the LASD did to Nicholas or what they continue to do to our Black and Brown communities on a daily basis. This may have happened 2 years ago, but Jim McDonnell was sheriff, not Lee Baca. This was and continues to be common practice for the LASD. We can only assume the deputies that killed Nicholas are still employed making 6 figures at the department since history has shown that not even the sheriff can discipline deputies without being challenged by powerful unions. In fact, the sheriff can't even give a list of 300 problematic deputies to prosecutors *as a reference*.

The verdict today is a small consolation to a family who had their loved one murdered and slandered by a department that claims to serve and protect. **True justice won't be possible until the list of the 300 problematic deputies is made available and the Civilian Oversight Commission has the power to subpoena information from the sheriff's department immediately following an incident like this – so that deputies aren't exempt from being held accountable.** Maybe then deputies will finally stop killing our loved ones.

For more information please visit dignityandpowernow.org.