

**6/17/24** [A major inquiry by the Washington Post](#) reveals that many U.S. cops have used their implicit power and authority to sexually abuse children with whom they come into contact during their work. While many - perhaps, most - escape any meaningful sanction, “at least 1,800” were charged with child sexual abuse between 2005-2022. Among these is a Lowell, N.C. police officer who got a 13-year old girl pregnant, and an L.A. County deputy sheriff who sexually abused a 15-year old victim of...sexual abuse. And, most notably, [the recent case of South Bend cop Timothy Barber](#), whose on-duty abuse of a 16-year old led to a suspended sentence. Instead of being fired, he was allowed to resign.

**1/18/24** In May 2021 the Washington State A.G. [charged Tacoma cops Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank and “Timmy” Rankine](#) with crimes ranging from 2nd. degree murder to 1st. degree manslaughter. In a 2020 encounter they allegedly pressed down on Manuel Ellis with such force that he stopped breathing. [But at the end of their recent trial](#) (it lasted over two months) jurors apparently accepted the defense argument that Mr. Ellis died from a lethal dose of meth and an existing heart condition, and found the officers not guilty on every count. Each has agreed to accept \$500,000 to resign from the force. (See below update)

**12/14/23** In May 2021 three Tacoma police officers were charged with murder and manslaughter in the death of Manuel Ellis, a 33-year old man they detained for allegedly harassing a woman. According to the Coroner, Ellis died from oxygen deprivation. At the officers’ nine-week trial, which just concluded, prosecutors accused the defendants of ignoring Ellis’ protests that he couldn’t breathe as they needlessly pummeled, choked and Tasered him to death. But the defense attributed Ellis’ death to his aggressive behavior and addiction to meth. (See above update)

**12/4/23** A [revised set of rules](#) mandating that deputies wear body cameras are two of the major correctives revealed by Rankin County (MS) Sheriff Bryan Bailey as he awaits the Federal and State sentencing of six White former deputies who participated in the unconscionable beating of two Black men last January. A \$400 million lawsuit is in the works (See 8/4/23 and 4/3/25 updates).

**10/10/23** One year before George Floyd, Louisiana troopers pursued a reckless driver until he crashed. They repeatedly Tasered and mercilessly pummeled the motorist, Ronald Greene, and despite his pleas forced the obese man to lie on his stomach. Mr. Greene lost consciousness and never came to. One year later, Trooper Chris Hollingsworth, supposedly the most blameworthy, was told that he was being fired. He apparently committed suicide. Charges are pending against trooper Kory York, for negligent homicide, Lt. John Clary, for obstruction of justice, and former sheriff’s

deputy Chris Hardin, for malfeasance.

**8/4/23** and **8/15/23** Each of the six White Rankin County, Mississippi officers who burst into a home in January and tortured and physically abused two Black men for over an hour have now pled guilty to multiple Federal and State felonies. Their sentences, which will run concurrently, could range up to life imprisonment. Among the charges are covering up the serious wounding of one of their victims, who was shot in the mouth when an officer play-acted his murder. Three of the defendants also pled guilty to the December 2022 abuse of a White man whom they were trying to get to confess. (See 12/4/23 update)

After spending two relatively brief stints in jail, former San Diego County deputy sheriff Richard Fischer, who pled guilty to seven felonies for sexually abusing sixteen women he encountered while on the job, took advantage of an innovative home monitoring program. Instead of fourteen years imprisonment, his sentence was initially set at 44 months, but as it turns out he spent only a fraction of that locked up. Meanwhile the County continues settling his victims' claims. So far it's paid out \$10 million to twenty-one women. And more payouts are likely on the horizon.

**6/27/23** In *Leon v. County of Riverside* (S26972) the California Supreme Court held that a State law that confers immunity from civil liability on public employees for "instituting or prosecuting any judicial or administrative proceeding" even if done "maliciously and without probable cause" does not extend to harm that police officers may cause when investigating crime. Such as in the present case, in which Riverside County sheriff's deputies left a victim's naked body lying on the street uncovered for hours.

**3/30/23** Three years ago, at the CHP's Altadena station house, seven CHP officers, including a Sergeant, forcibly held down DUI arrestee Edward Bronstein on his stomach so that a nurse could draw his blood. Bronstein, who turned out to be high on meth, complained "I can't breathe" and went limp. "Several minutes" passed before CPR was attempted. Bronstein died. All seven officers and the nurse are now charged with involuntary manslaughter, and the officers also face charges of assault. (See 3/17/22 update)

**3/24/23** An academic inquiry concluded that in two of three studies that compared jurisdictions with and without officer body cameras their use led to significantly fewer fatalities. It's thought that this might be the result of officers and citizens modulating their behavior while being filmed. (One study showed no effects.) In all, NIJ assigned a "promising" rating. However, the authors cautioned that the positive results could have

been produced by other changes in policy in agencies that adopted the cameras.

**3/17/23** In 2016 researchers randomly assigned 504 Milwaukee patrol officers to one of two groups. One group wore body cameras for eight months; the other did not. A recently published Crime Solutions study reveals no significant between-group differences on overall proactivity, number of arrests or citizen complaints. However, officers with cameras stopped significantly fewer persons in non-traffic “suspicious person” situations and conducted significantly more neighborhood “park and walks”.

**1/27/23** Two young Hialeah, Fla. police officers who handcuffed a troublesome homeless man, drove him out of town, allegedly beat him up and left him on the ground were promptly fired. Lorenzo Orfila, 27, and Rafael Otano, 22, now face kidnapping, battery and other charges over the December 17th. incident. An off-duty cop soon came across the man and called 9-1-1. According to the victim, another homeless person later offered him \$1,200 to recant. His money was accepted.

**1/11/23** Former Muncie, Indiana police sgt. Joseph Krejsa pled guilty to Federal obstruction of justice for submitting a report to superiors that falsely cleared fellow officers from using excessive force in the 2018 arrest of Ronald Greene. Three former Muncie cops who were involved in the altercation have already pled guilty, and a fourth is scheduled for trial (see 5/14/22 and 12/6/22 updates).

**12/16/22** A Louisiana grand jury indicted State Police Trooper Kory York on negligent homicide and malfeasance charges for his physical abuse of Ronald Greene following a June 2019 pursuit and traffic stop. Four other officers face lesser charges, including obstructing the inquiry. Among them is Trooper Dakota DeMoss, who allegedly denied having bodycamera footage, and a high-ranking officer who reportedly pressured investigators not to pursue charges.

**12/6/22** Facing trial for a series of arrests in which he and colleagues allegedly used excessive force, former Muncie, Indiana police officer Chase Winkle, the son of the city’s former police chief, pled guilty to five Federal civil rights counts and six obstruction of justice counts for lying to cover up the assaults. In one episode, Winkle “dropped his full bodyweight” on the neck of an arrestee who had directed insults to Winkle and his colleagues. (See 5/14/22 and 1/11/23 updates)

**9/12/22** In May police in Childersburg, a city of 4,750 pop. in central Alabama, were informed by a caller that a stranger was at a home whose occupants were away. Officers (they were White) encountered Michael Jennings, a middle-aged Black man watering the flowers. Mr. Jennings said he was a Pastor and a neighbor, and had been asked to

help. All this turned out to be true. But the officers didn't know him. He refused to provide ID, and after a protracted back-and-forth they arrested him for obstruction. Charges, however, were ultimately rejected. He has now sued for civil rights violations. [Video](#)

**8/23/22** A bystander video depicts the brutal Sunday morning beating of a South Carolina man by two Arkansas Sheriff's deputies and a Mulberry city officer. Randall Worcester, 27, was tackled to the ground and repeatedly punched and kicked after reportedly resisting arrest for threatening a gas station clerk in a nearby community. Authorities report that the officers have been suspended with pay. Worcester was released on \$15,000 bail. For our brief video excerpt of the encounter click [here](#).

**7/10/22** A decade-plus of complaints that NYPD sex-crime detectives "fail[ed] to conduct basic investigative steps and instead sham[ed] and abus[ed] survivors and re-traumatiz[ed] them during investigations" has led DOJ to open a pattern or practices investigation of NYPD's "Special Victims Division." New York City's mayor, top lawyer and police commissioner have reportedly promised to help.

**6/10/22** DOJ opened a "pattern or practice" investigation into the Louisiana State Police. It was prompted by a litany of allegations about trooper misconduct, including the use of excessive force, the targeting of Black persons, and the use of racial slurs and derogatory remarks. DOJ's announcement states that this inquiry is separate from an ongoing criminal investigation by the Civil Rights Division and Louisiana Federal prosecutors into the death of Ronald Greene.

**5/31/22** In October 2020, five months after troopers stopped Ronald Greene, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards watched previously unreleased video from the bodycam of Lt. John Cleary, the ranking officer on scene, "that shows the moment a handcuffed, bloody Greene moans under the weight of two troopers, twitches and then goes still." But the damning footage, which Lt. Cleary initially denied having, wasn't released to the Feds until April 2021. That delay, insists the Governor, wasn't his doing.

**5/14/22** Two years ago a Federal grand jury indicted former Muncie, Indiana police officers Joseph Chase Winkle, Jeremy Gibson and Joseph Krejsa for civil rights violations (using excessive force during arrests) and obstructing justice by covering it up. [One year ago](#) a superseding indictment added counts and charged a fourth former cop, Corey Posey. [So far there have been two pleas](#). In August 2021 a fifth former officer, Dalton Kurtz, pled guilty to obstruction. And on May 13, 2022 former officer Gibson pled guilty to civil rights violations and obstruction. Chase, Winkle and Krejsa will be tried in August. (See 12/6/22 and 1/11/23 updates)

**5/3/22** Testifying before a committee of Louisiana State lawmakers who are investigating the probe of Ronald Greene's death, state police officials said they're baffled why no trooper has yet been charged. Legislators are now threatening to hold Kevin Reeves, the agency's former head, in contempt for refusing to fully share journals detailing his conversations with Governor John Bel Edwards. Governor Edwards has condemned the officers but says he's keeping quiet until the Feds complete their investigation.

**4/8/22** Reopening an inquiry that was suspended in favor of the Feds, Union Parish (La.) D.A. John Belton is impaneling a State grand jury to pursue a probe of the arrest of Ronald Greene. Exclaiming that "no one is above the law -- no one," he expressed a commitment to prosecute the troopers whom video depicts badly abusing the hapless man after a car chase. [Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards](#) recently said he was appalled by the officers' racism and had been impatiently waiting for the Feds to act.

**4/5/22** In September 2020 Louisiana Trooper Chris Hollingsworth and his lawyer met with internal affairs investigators who were probing the May 2019 arrest of Ronald Greene. Despite his clearly abusive treatment of Greene, Hollingsworth insisted that he had been the one at risk. A few days later Hollingsworth perished in a suspicious single-vehicle car crash, which seemed "consistent with a suicide". *AP* posted Hollingsworth's recorded statement to investigators.

[An L.A. Times investigation](#) revealed that LAPD officers frequently fail to comply with a policy to promptly render aid to citizens they injure. In one case they waited "more than six minutes" before approaching a knife-wielding man whom they had shot. Treating citizens as potential threats even when they are clearly incapacitated seems to be a commonly accepted practice. Some officers also worry that their non-expert intervention could hurt rather than help. But the leader of a major policing group emphasizes that the ability to "quickly pivot" from law enforcement to lifesaving is crucial.

**3/17/22** In March 2020, two months before the killing of George Floyd, CHP officers forcibly held down Edward Bronstein, 38, to draw his blood. Bronstein, who was under arrest for driving while intoxicated, had become agitated, and he was handcuffed and placed on his stomach. He repeatedly complained "I can't breathe," then went silent. Cause of death was listed as "acute methamphetamine intoxication during restraint by law enforcement." CHP denies its officers were at fault, and a lawsuit is in progress. (See 3/30/23 update)

**1/27/22** According to the *Washington Post*, only Nevada requires that private law enforcement training providers be accredited by the [Intl. Assoc. of Directors of Law Enf. Standards and Training](#). That has supposedly enabled some questionable offerings. At

the recent, non-certified “Street Cop Training Conference” in Atlantic City, which reportedly drew a large police crowd, a presenter disparaged Black Lives Matter as a “terrorist organization” and said all would be well “if people would just comply...”

**12/9/21** L.A. County settled two lawsuits filed by citizens who claimed they were abused by Sheriff’s deputies. Barry Montgomery will receive \$2.5 million over an 2014 incident in which he was severely beaten after pretending to be an armed gang member. He is mentally ill and was unarmed. Lyle Spruill was awarded \$500,000 [for a November 2019 incident](#) that led him to spend six months in jail after he allegedly shot at deputies during a foot pursuit. As it turns out, he was also unarmed.

**12/8/21** Two former Torrance (CA) police officers are being prosecuted for allegedly spraying the image of a swastika in a citizen’s vehicle last August. They’re among “more than a dozen” current and past officers being investigated for participating in a years-long exchange of text messages that berated racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBT community. So far their actions have caused “at least 85” criminal cases in which they participated to be dismissed.

**11/11/21** During a February, 2019 search of a Chicago residence that turned out to be based on faulty information, officers reportedly brutalized its occupant, Anjanette Young, whom they handcuffed while naked. A recently released report recommended that six officers be disciplined and that a sergeant be fired. Among the findings was that the participants had insufficient training in conducting search warrants, and that “meaningful and effective supervision” was lacking. Click [here](#) for bodycam video.

**10/16/21** Louisiana State trooper Carl Cavalier, a Black man, wasn’t present during the stop of Ronald Greene. But when he found out about it he gave media interviews that described what happened as a “murder” and the response as a “coverup.” Cavalier, who has sued the department for discrimination and published an unauthorized novel about his experiences, has just received notice that he is being fired for disloyalty, unbecoming conduct and violating policies about public statements.

**9/17/21** With time and money running out and only 200,000 of the required 580,000 voter signatures on hand, recall backers suspended their effort against George Gascon, L.A.’s progressively-minded new D.A. But they vow to be back. Gascon’s moves to end cash bail and prohibit assistant D.A.’s from seeking death penalties and sentence enhancements [angered crime victims and many of his own deputies](#).

**9/12/21** A Louisiana State Police panel formed to review bodycam videos from prior stops by officers from the same Troop that tangled with Ronald Greene was “abruptly disbanded.” According to the *AP*, the footage depicts beatings and excessive uses of force dating back to 2019. A police official recently retired after admitting he routinely



approved use-of-force reports without watching the videos. Federal investigators examining Greene's beating are reportedly looking into these incidents as well.

**9/9/21** Loveland, Colorado settled a lawsuit filed by the family of Karen Garner, a 74-year old woman whom two police officers violently arrested in June 2020 after she reportedly shoplifted \$14 worth of goods from a Walmart. Garner, who suffers from dementia, says she forgot to pay. Both officers resigned. In May 2021 one was charged with assault, and the other with not intervening and failure to report. [A video](#) depicts the officers in the station, laughing after the arrest. One said "I love it. This is great."

**6/30/21** In December 2015 St. Louis police arrested Nicholas Gilbert for trespassing and placed him in a cell. Gilbert acted as though he was suicidal and became violent. Officers handcuffed and shackled Gilbert and forcefully held him down on his stomach. After fifteen minutes. Gilbert died. His family's Federal lawsuit was rejected by a District Court which found that the officers had qualified immunity. On appeal, a Circuit Court held that constitutionally excessive force wasn't used. But in *Lombardo v. St. Louis* (no. 20-391, 6/28/21) the Supreme Court sent the case back to the Circuit to consider whether prone positioning was reasonable given its known dangers and the agency's own warnings about its use.