

**11/17/23** Former Louisville police officer Brett Hankinson's Federal trial for violating the civil rights of Breonna Taylor and other residents whom he endangered with his wildly misplaced gunfire ended in a mistrial. Jurors could not unanimously decide whether his actions were, as he insisted, a reasonable response to protect his colleagues from gunfire by Breonna Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, who mistook the officers serving a search warrant as intruders. Hankinson was previously acquitted on like charges in State court. (See 8/5/22, 11/1/23 and 11/4/24 updates)

**11/1/23** Former Louisville Det. Brett Hankinson was present during the search warrant at Breonna Taylor's apartment in March 2020. He fired ten rounds when his colleagues exchanged gunfire with her boyfriend, who thought the cops were intruders. Hankinson's bullets struck no one, but several pierced into another apartment and imperiled its occupants. Det. Hankinson was fired, then found innocent of State endangerment charges. He was then indicted for Federal civil rights violations. His trial just began. (See 8/5/22 update)

**6/19/23** In February 2019 Chicago police mistakenly got a no-knock search warrant for the wrong home. And while serving it they handled its sole occupant, social worker Anjanette Young, very roughly. Last year Chicago paid out \$2.9 million for the blunder. And on June 15, 2023, by a 5-3 vote, the Chicago Police Board fired the most senior officer on scene, Sgt. Alex Wolinski, for lapses including inattention and maltreatment. A long appeals process now begins to run. (See 11/11/21 update)

**4/25/23** Myles Cosgrove, the former Louisville detective whose return fire during the raid of Breonna Taylor's apartment missed her boyfriend but mortally wounded Ms. Taylor, was fired but avoided prosecution. He's now been hired as a deputy by the Carroll County Sheriff's office, a small agency in rural Kentucky. That spurred a small demonstration in the county seat, Carrolton.

**3/9/23** Prompted by the 2020 killing of Breonna Taylor, DOJ's civil rights inquiry into Louisville PD concludes that its officers engaged in a "pattern or practice" of First and Fourth Amendment violations, using excessive force, serving "invalid" warrants, and failing to properly announce their presence. Heavy criticism is levied on the deployment of aggressive "Viper" teams that made pretextual, often illegal stops in Black neighborhoods. Negotiations for a consent decree are reportedly in the works.

**3/1/23** After seventeen years on the job, Col. Paul Humphrey, head of Louisville PD's newly-formed "Accountability and Improvement Bureau," struggles to help his agency overcome a legacy of misbehavior and lethal blunders that go far beyond the killing of Breonna Taylor. But record levels of crime and serious shortfalls in staffing get in the

way. Ditto, the “daily realities” of the streets. One ex-cop, who is serving two years for beating a demonstrator during the 2020 protests, told a reporter that the urban disorder he contended with each day “began to take a toll and slowly changed who he was.”

**1/31/22** Louisville P.D.’s killing of Breonna Taylor in March 2020 led to a wave of protests that summer. While helping break up a post-curfew gathering in June, then-cop Katie Crews fired pepperballs, striking a woman in a restaurant doorway. Her uncle, the proprietor, then shot at police and was killed by return fire from a National Guardsman. Crews, who left the force, was charged with Federal civil rights violations over the pepper-ball incident. She just drew two years probation. [DOJ release](#)

**12/13/22** Louisville is paying Kenneth Walker, the boyfriend of Breonna Taylor, \$2 million to settle lawsuits he filed after officers shot Ms. Taylor dead when they burst into their residence in March 2020. Mr. Walker says he didn’t know it was police when he fired a shot that struck an officer in the leg. Misaimed return fire from another officer killed Ms. Taylor. Her mother has already settled, for \$12 million. Three officers were charged with Federal civil rights offenses for using false information to secure the warrant; one pled guilty and the other two await trial.

**11/11/22** Under pressure from Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago’s city council rejected a proposed ordinance that would have imposed stiff requirements on police seeking search warrants. Inspired by the mistaken 2019 raid on the residence of Anjanette Young, the measure would have prohibited informants from being the sole source of information for a warrant and require corroboration through surveillance and at least one “non-informant source.” (See 11/11/21 update)

**8/24/22** Former Louisville PD Det. Kelly Goodlett pled guilty to conspiring to violate the Federal civil rights of Breonna Taylor by helping other officers secure a search warrant for Ms. Taylor’s apartment using information she knew to be false. Former LPD Det. Joshua Jaynes, the officer who secured the warrant, and their supervisor, Sgt. Kyle Meany, are facing like charges (see 8/5/22, 12/30/20, 10/21/21 and 3/3/22 updates). [DOJ press release](#)

**8/5/22** Federal authorities indicted former Louisville detective Joshua Jaynes, who obtained the search warrant for Breonna Taylor’s apartment. LMPD fired Jaynes for falsely asserting that Postal Inspectors confirmed Taylor was receiving packages for Jamarcus Glover, her drug-dealing former boyfriend. Current LMPD Sgt. Kyle Meany, Jayne’s supervisor, was indicted for approving the warrant and lying to investigators, and LMPD Det. Kelly Goodlett was charged with helping Jaynes falsify the warrant and lying to investigators. Also indicted was Det. Brett Hankinson, whose gunfire entered

another apartment (he was recently acquitted in State court). (See 12/30/20, 10/21/21, 3/3/22, 11/1/23 and 11/17/23 updates.)

**7/26/22** On Feb. 2 a Minneapolis officer executing a no-knock search warrant for a St. Paul murder shot and killed Amir Locke, who was startled awake from a couch and displayed a gun. But Locke was unconnected with the murder. Today his cousin, Mekhi C. Speed, 18, who had access to the unit where Locke was a guest, was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to 2nd. degree murder in that case.

**4/16/22** According to the *Washington Post*, its [database of fatal police shooting](#) reveals that twenty-two citizens and one officer lost their lives in twenty-one police no-knock raids since 2015. Five of the citizens killed by police were not “a focus of the warrant.” Police reported that in all but two instances occupants turned out to be armed. Most of the raids were for drugs, which is by far the predominant reason for no-knocks across the U.S. But the *Post* says that no-knocks, which have become increasingly common, seldom turn up large quantities of drugs.

**4/7/22** On Feb. 2 Minneapolis SWAT officer Mark Hanneman entered a residence while executing a no-knock search warrant on a St. Paul murder case. Amir Locke, a 22-year old Black youth who had been sleeping on the couch, suddenly woke up. Locke allegedly pointed a gun he had in the officer’s direction, and the officer shot him dead. Locke was not a suspect in the murder. On April 6 local and State prosecutors announced that viewed “from the perspective of a reasonable police officer,” there was insufficient evidence to charge the officer with a crime.

**4/1/22** The officers who searched Breonna Taylor’s apartment were members of a team that was pioneering Louisville PD’s application of the “[place network investigations](#)” approach to combating crime in chronically beset areas. That strategy, which grew from academic research, is in use at a handful of cities, including Las Vegas, Dallas, Philadelphia and Tucson. A “holistic” version of “hot spots,” it also derives from the “[PIVOT](#)” approach developed and used in Cincinnati. But Louisville has dropped it.

**3/7/22** On March 1st. Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) introduced the “Amir Locke End Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act.” It would ban Federal no-knock warrants in drug cases. They could otherwise be issued only when their need is supported by “clear and convincing evidence” that giving notice “would substantially endanger the life or safety of the law enforcement officer or other persons.” Federal law enforcement funds could only go to State and local law enforcement agencies with equivalent policies.

**3/3/22** After three hours of deliberation, jurors found former LPD detective Brett Hankison not guilty of “wanton endangerment.” During his testimony, he explained that his allegedly wild barrage, which he fired into a window and a sliding door, was meant to

neutralize the shooter who had just wounded his colleague as they served a search warrant at Breonna Taylor's residence. "[I thought I could put rounds through that bedroom window and stop the threat](#)," he said. But his bullets penetrated into another apartment occupied by a couple and their small child. One of the parents testified about their near miss.

[2/10/22](#) Protests over the killing of Amir Locke are helping propel a new move by the Minneapolis City Council to dismantle the police department and replace it with socially-focused public service agency. Banning no-knock warrants, which are frequently used by MPD's SWAT team, is also high on the list. Crime worries led the city's voters to reject a plan to abolish the police last year.

[2/9/22](#) St. Paul (Minn.) police arrested Mekhi C. Speed, 17, for committing the murder whose investigation led an MPD SWAT team to serve a no-knock warrant on a Minneapolis apartment February 2nd. During the process, officers encountered Speed's cousin, Amir Locke, who was sleeping on the couch with a gun that he was licensed to carry. He was startled awake. Mistaking his intent on rising, an officer shot him dead. Speed's brother and girlfriend occupied the unit. A search turned up clothes that Speed may have been wearing on the evening of the murder (see 2/5/22 entry).

[2/5/22](#) Minneapolis P.D. agreed to help when a St. Paul murder inquiry led into its area. But it insisted on a "no-knock" search warrant, which its SWAT team frequently serves. St. Paul, which has stopped using these, agreed. When MPD's team entered the residence on February 2, it encountered 22-year old Amir Locke sleeping on a couch. On rising, the youth displayed his (licensed) pistol. An officer quickly fired, killing him. It turns out that Locke, an overnight guest, was apparently unconnected with the crime. MPD, which has secured 12 regular warrants and 13 no-knocks this year, suspended the latter's use.

[1/14/22](#) An academic study of de-escalation training implemented by Louisville police in 2019 concludes that it produced "statistically significant reductions in officer use of force and injury to citizens and officers." However, the authors caution that the training, known as [ICAT](#) and developed by the Police Executive Research Forum, was intended to help officers peacefully resolve situations involving "persons in crisis...who may be behaving erratically, but are either unarmed or armed with less than a firearm." It was not designed for forceful entries or persons armed with guns, and was thus inapplicable to Louisville cops' tragic March 2020 encounter [at the residence of Breonna Taylor](#).

[According to the FBI](#) *seventy-three* U.S. law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in 2021. [LEOKA data](#) indicates that's 59 percent higher than in 2020, when the toll was forty-six, and 52 percent more than in 2019, when it was forty-eight.

**12/23/21** Comprehensive simulations using live actors [is considered by policing experts at PERF](#) as the best way to teach officers to “safely defuse a range of critical incidents.” Virtual reality, though, is less expensive, and is reportedly effective when used during intensive exercises that have officers switch into citizens’ roles. Louisville, Newark and Camden report that trained officers perform better. But a professor cautions that such training, while very useful for routine encounters, “does not address higher-risk scenarios like the raid in Louisville that led to the police shooting of Breonna Taylor.”

**11/22/21** Louisville [will spend](#) tens of millions in COVID relief funds on police reforms. Housing will get \$100 million, and violence prevention and youth programs tens of millions more. But Feds in town [conducting a pattern-and-practice review](#) prompted by the killing of Breonna Taylor are digging into a recent police killing, in which officers say the man they shot while responding to a domestic call fired first. “You can’t control the timing of these things,” said Erika Shields, the new police chief. “...with so much violence and guns on the streets, you just know there’s a likelihood of this kind of thing happening.”

**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. (See 6/19/23 update)

**10/21/21** Jamarcus Glover, Breonna Taylor’s ex-boyfriend, will plead guilty to drug charges in exchange for probation. Det. Joshua Jaynes obtained the search warrant for Taylor’s residence by alleging that Glover was receiving drug-related supplies at her home. That turned out to be untrue, and Glover denied that Taylor was involved. Det. Jaynes was fired (he is appealing.) Also fired were officer Miles Cosgrove, whose bullets struck Ms. Taylor, and Det. Brett Hankison, whose wild barrage entered another apartment (he awaits trial for endangerment.) Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly, who was shot by Ms. Taylor’s companion and returned fire, accidentally striking Ms. Taylor, has retired.

**9/25/21** Veteran D.C. police officer Terence Sutton was charged with murder and a colleague was accused of conspiracy and obstruction in the death of Karon Hylton, 20 on October 23, 2020. Hylton, who was riding an electric moped, was struck and killed by a vehicle as Officer Sutton and his colleagues in an anti-crime team pursued him, ostensibly for riding on the sidewalk and not wearing a helmet. However, D.C. police regulations prohibit pursuits for traffic violations. But Sutton’s lawyer insists that the officer knew Hylton and was chasing him because he thought Hylton was armed. [Hylton](#)

[had a record](#) for marijuana sales and other offenses and was pending charges for assaulting a police officer.

**8/6/21** Kentucky attorney general Daniel Cameron addressed the grand jury's failure to charge any of the Louisville PD officers for killing Ms. Taylor. (One officer was indicted for endangering a neighbor by recklessly shooting into their apartment.) "The officers attempted to enter the home, they were fired upon and returned fire...it was a tragedy that in the return fire, Miss Taylor was hit and died...But again, our team had to look at the facts and apply that to the law as it exists." He refused to comment on statements to the media by three disgruntled grand jurors who argued that they were misled.

**4/28/21** With specific reference to Breonna Taylor, the Louisville resident who was accidentally shot and killed by officers executing a search warrant at her apartment, DOJ announced it will conduct a "pattern-or-practice" investigation to determine whether Louisville P.D. uses "unreasonable force, including with respect to people involved in peaceful expressive activities," performs "unconstitutional stops, searches, and seizures," or "unlawfully executes search warrants on private homes."

**4/26/21** George Gascon, L.A.'s new, progressively-minded D.A., halved the size of his agency's "hardcore gang" prosecutive team. Renamed the "Community Violence Reduction Division," it will continue to deal with "the most prolific violent offenders." But instead of following a "purely prosecutorial model," its arsenal of tools will now include "prevention, intervention and community involvement efforts." Prosecutors are objecting, and police are so far keeping mum.

**3/14/21** A Jefferson County (Louisville) judge permanently barred the prosecution of Kenneth Walker for firing the round that struck Sgt. Mattingly. Walker, who legally possessed the weapon, insists that he did not know the intruders were police. "I am a legal gun owner and I would never knowingly shoot a police officer. Breonna and I did not know who was banging at the door, but police know what they did." Walker has [filed a lawsuit against Louisville](#) alleging "assault, battery, false arrest and imprisonment, malicious prosecution, abuse of process and negligence."

**3/12/21** [Louisville settled the lawsuit](#) filed by Breonna Taylor's family for \$12 million. It also pledged to make substantial changes in police practices and improve the quality of its force. [To help accomplish the latter](#) it is increasing rookie pay by 29 percent. That would raise it to \$45,000, which is still relatively low. Former cop Brett Hankison, the only Louisville officer facing charges (three counts of wanton endangerment), had been suspended by a prior agency. Hankison went on to accumulate a serious number of demerits in Louisville, where he gained a reputation for being aggressive.



**3/10/21** An online poll of 1,165 American voters disclosed “a stark divide” between Black and White [opinions on race and policing](#). While a decided majority of Blacks (64 percent) felt that police had murdered George Floyd, only 28 percent of Whites agreed. “[Fully funding](#)” police was endorsed by 65 percent of Whites and 37 percent of Blacks. Similar Democratic/Republican splits were also evident.

**2/24/21** Acting on complaints that the city’s police officers disproportionately stop Black motorists and pedestrians, the Berkeley (CA) City Council unanimously approved a measure that prohibits officers from making stops for minor infractions such as expired tags. “Transformative” changes, including slicing the police budget in half and tuning over traffic enforcement to civilians, are planned by summer. According to the police union president, officers will become “filing clerks.”

**1/6/21** Louisville PD fired Detectives Cosgrove and Gentry. Sgt. Mattingly was exonerated for use-of-force violations, and three other officers connected with the case received reprimands or one-day suspensions. In a decision that has sparked controversy, [Louisville selected Erika Shields](#) as its new permanent chief. Ms. Shields resigned as Atlanta police chief after the [shooting of Rayshard Brooks](#).

**12/30/20** Louisville police chief Yvette Gentry has moved to fire Detective Cosgrove. According to ballistics, his bullet also proved fatal to Ms. Taylor. In addition, Chief Gentry is firing Detective Joshua Jaynes, who obtained the search warrant for Ms. Taylor’s residence. His affidavit stated that he was told by a postal inspector that Ms. Taylor’s former boyfriend, Jamarcus Glover, was currently receiving packages at her residence. Instead, that information allegedly came through other officers. (Click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) for images of the termination letter, and [here](#) for the images’ source.)

**11/26/20** Breonna Taylor’s death is leading to a tightening of no-knock policies elsewhere. In Minneapolis, where George Floyd was killed, new rules require that officers yell “police” and “search warrant” even when “no-knock” has been authorized. To go further requires approval of the police chief and an extreme situation, such as the rescue of a hostage.

**10/28/20** [Bodycam video reveals](#) that the Waukegan (IL) officer who initially encountered Tafara Williams and Marcellis Stinnette in a parked vehicle recognized Mr. Stinnette and knew that he had a warrant (click [here](#) for the clip.) But when he tried to arrest Mr. Stinnette, Ms. Williams abruptly took off at a high rate of speed. Another officer pursued the car until it ran off the road. That officer did not immediately turn on his bodycam, so his claim that Ms. Williams backed her car at him can’t be visually confirmed. But he accused her of doing that moments after he shot the couple (click [here](#) for the clip.)

Under the authority of [Presidential Executive Order 13929](#) (6/16/20) [DOJ issued regulations](#) today requiring that within ninety days all law enforcement agencies in the U.S. be certified by an authorized credentialing agency that their use of force policies (a) comply with all laws, and (b) prohibit chokeholds except when the use of deadly force is legal. These assessments should also include reviews of policies and procedures, including use of force training, de-escalation, duty to intervene when officers are acting improperly, shooting at moving vehicles, and recruitment and promotion.

**10/23/20** Midnight Tuesday a Waukegan (IL) officer responded to a call about a suspicious parked vehicle. But the car, which was occupied by a man and a woman, drove away. Another officer found the vehicle parked nearby and approached on foot. That's when its driver, Tafara Williams, 20, started backing up the car. Fearing he would be run over, the officer opened fire, badly wounding Ms. Williams and killing her passenger, Marcellis Stinnette, 19. Ms. Williams denied she was trying to hurt the officer. This shooting led to demonstrations and a comparison to other recent lethal police-citizen encounters. A [criminal history check](#) revealed that a defendant whose name and age matched Mr. Stinnette had a considerable record in Waukegan, including stolen vehicle and burglary. Click [here](#) for a case printout.

**10/21/20** [In his first media interview](#), Sgt. John Mattingly addressed Breonna Taylor's mother: "There's no way I could ever tell you enough how much I wish that hadn't taken place." And although Breonna Taylor's boyfriend said he fired at the ground as a scare tactic, Mattingly said he "pushed out with two hands looking straight at me...Our postures were the same, looking at each other, when he fired that shot." Sgt. Mattingly said that a quick, surprise entry might have avoided the bloodshed.

[In a joint announcement](#) with Minneapolis police chief Medaria Arradondo DOJ unveiled a "National Response Center Initiative" intended to help Minneapolis and police across the U.S. "adapt to the wide range of challenges" posed by gangs, drugs and social problems such as homelessness and "enhance and reform policies and practices to prevent the use of excessive force."