

For over 50 years there has been a

PATTERN & PRACTICE OF POLICE ABUSE, MISCONDUCT & COVER UPS IN GREENSBORO

And although local government has known about these wrongs, and paid millions of dollars in settlements, no mayor or city council has chosen to intervene and reform the culture of racist violence and corruption in the Greensboro Police Department. Here are some examples.

1969

Killing of Willie Grimes and National Guard shoot-in of NC A&T: The Greensboro Uprising was sparked when students of North Carolina A&T and James B. Dudley High School and supportive community organizations protested civil rights abuses in Greensboro and the Dudley High School Administration's refusal to let students pick their own (black) student body president, Claude Barnes, despite winning an overwhelming majority of the vote as a write in candidate. After a protest march, a Greensboro police patrol car stopped near the A&T campus and witnesses claim that Greensboro police officers shot and killed a black student named Willie Grimes, who was not involved in the protests. Vietnam Veterans at A&T chose to pick up arms and defend the college campus between May 21-25, at which point the National Guard was called in. In an attempt to stomp out "black militancy", the GPD and National Guard sprayed the campus with bullets. The event was described at the time as "the most massive armed assault ever made against an American university."



1979



The Greensboro Massacre: On November 3rd, 1979 members of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi party killed 5 demonstrators during a pro-worker and anti-Klan rally. 11 more people were injured. In a civil suit in 1985, Greensboro Police Officers, Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazi members were found jointly liable for the wrongful death of one person. Despite being found liable for wrongful death in federal court, the GPD and the City of Greensboro have never admitted wrongdoing or held any officers accountable. In 2004, the U.S.'s first Truth and Reconciliation Commission studied the Greensboro Massacre and made a list of policy recommendations to be implemented in order to improve race & police relations in GSO. These recommendations have yet to be implemented.

2009



Police Officer Reyes – on Oct 29, 2009 Latino Greensboro police officer, Robert Reyes, filed a misconduct complaint against a fellow white officer for using excessive force against a black arrestee. The GDP administration then retaliated against him, harassing, intimidating and embarrassing him, lowering his evaluation rating and eventually fired him for "insubordination".

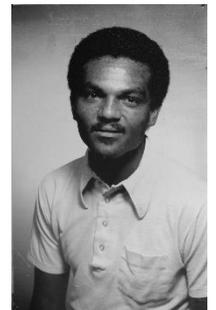


Eva Foster, a retired Greensboro educator, was 85 years old when a white Greensboro Police officer forced her to the ground and handcuffed her with so much force that it fractured her wrist in 2009. She had not committed a crime and the police say she was not under arrest. Greensboro paid her damages in 2012.

2012



LaMonte Armstrong was released from prison in 2012 after spending 17 years incarcerated for a crime which he did not commit but was framed for by the Greensboro Police Department. The Duke University Wrongful Conviction clinic helped overturn his wrongful conviction, and the city of Greensboro paid him \$6.42 Million dollars in damages.



Jorge Cornell, a leader within the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN) who was working to stop drug sales, violence and theft within his community - as well as police violence towards Latino and Black residents - was convicted of federal racketeering charges in 2012 after Greensboro police targeted him and falsified evidence against him. Jorge was specifically targeted because he had forged a peace treaty amongst street groups in Greensboro and filed a Title VI complaint with the Department of Justice against the GPD for discriminatory treatment of minorities, including himself.

2013

Greensboro pays \$500,000 to Black and Latino officers who were discriminated against. After 8 years of scandal and litigation, the City of Greensboro settled 3 lawsuits and paid 40 Black and Latino officers who claimed they had been discriminated against within the police department a total of \$500,000 dollars. The city spent over \$2.3 Million dollars battling these lawsuits.

2013



Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter is revealed to be a confidential informant for the Greensboro Police. Emails between Councilwoman Abuzuaiter and GPD published in Yes! Weekly exposed that the councilwoman had been a confidential informant for the GPD, monitoring and reporting about planned activities of nonviolent community groups such as Peace and Justice Network, Occupy and Palestinian Justice groups. Council never investigated this unconstitutional surveillance and infringement of citizens free speech rights.

2015



Greensboro’s old Chief, Ken Miller, is replaced by Chief Wayne Scott – despite the community warning that he’s more of the same. Greensboro’s city manager chose Wayne Scott to become chief of police, over Danielle Outlaw, a very competent black female veteran police officer. Many clergy and community members warn that Chief Scott, who had worked in the GPD for 24 years at the time, had been brought up within the corrupt culture of the GPD and was therefore not fit to be chief.

Analysis shows large racial disparities in policing in Greensboro. A front-page article in the New York Times exposed the world to Greensboro’s racist policing problems, by publishing Dr. Frank Baumgartner’s (of UNC Chapel Hill) analysis of GPD’s own statistics. Black residents of Greensboro are stopped at a ratio of 2.08 to 1 compared to white drivers, and were searched twice as often as white drivers, despite statistics showing that police “found drugs and weapons significantly more often when the driver was white.” Following this national attention on racial disparities within Greensboro policing practices, GPD briefly halted enforcement of minor traffic stop offenses (such as tail lights), but Chief Scott later rescinded this order, despite racial disparities persisting in police stops.



Greensboro Police settle with Devin and Rufus Scales for violating their rights.

In May 2013, Devin Scales was arrested for video-taping while Greensboro Police officer Travis B. Cole, who is white, tased and assaulted his brother, Devin. After their story of made headline news, the brothers’ charges were dropped, and the city settled for \$50,000.



2016



Greensboro Police assault Dejuan Yourse while he’s sitting on his mother’s porch. After police body cam footage of GPD officers Travis B. Cole (yes, same as above) and Charlotte Jackson assaulting Dejuan Yourse is released to the public, both Cole and Jackson resign, and the city of Greensboro settles a lawsuit with Dejuan Yourse for \$95,000.

Greensboro Police attack and arrest 15-year-old Jose Charles who was attending the 2016 Fun Fourth Festival in downtown Greensboro. In response to Jose offending officer Samuel Alvarez, Jose and his mother claimed Alvarez picked him up “in the air with all the force they could, and slam[ming] him on his head.” After public outcry over police misconduct by his family and supporters, all charges were dropped against Jose Charles. A complaint was made to the Police Community Review Board (PCRB), but community members serving on the board were sworn to secrecy and not allowed to speak to the public. One PCRB member broke ranks and spoke publicly about the abuse and was forced to resign.

Greensboro Police profile, assault and arrest Zared Jones and 3 other black men for being downtown while black –

On September 10, 2016, Zared Jones and 3 other black men were approached by police as soon as they got out of their car downtown on. The police asked, “What are you doing downtown?” Later, Officers Samuel Alvarez, Jose Chavez (both involved with the Jose Charles case) and others harassed the men, and ultimately tased and assaulted them before arresting them on false charges. Zared’s charges were later dropped, but the fight to release body cam footage and hold officers accountable continues.



2018



Two GPD officers named as control agents for KKK imperial wizard Chris Barker. Journalist Nate Thayer exposed GPD officers Steven Kory Flowers and Robert Finch as shielding Barker - the Imperial Wizard of the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- from prosecution in numerous felony cases.

Police Hogtie and Kill Marcus Deon Smith & Then are Caught Lying About it and Covering it Up! Greensboro police officers violated their own policy (Sec. 11.1) and the Department of Justice Directives when they hogtied and killed Marcus Smith, an unarmed black man on September 8th, 2018. Following the incident, Police Chief Wayne Scott’s Department released a press release which Mayor Vaughan described as, “Obviously that was a lie.” The State Medical Examiner declared the death a Homicide. No officer has been held accountable for this unlawful killing, or the cover-up.