

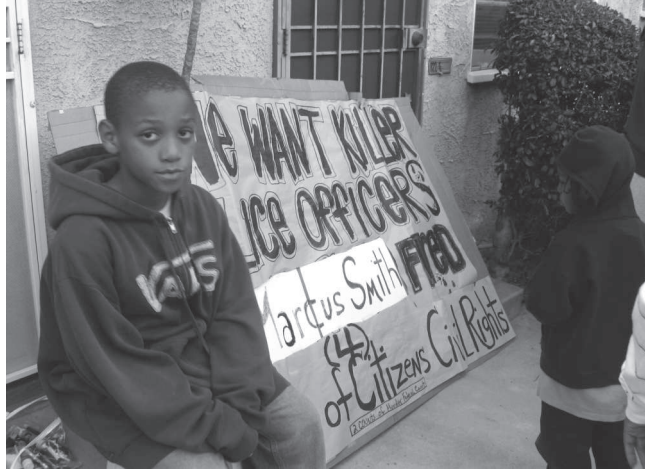
# **DON'T** Shoot to Kill

Homicides Resulting from Law Enforcement  
Use of Force within **LA** County, 2000-2014



## Introduction

This report documents the deaths of 589 people who lived in Los Angeles County and were killed by law enforcement between January 1, 2000 and August 31, 2014.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the report documents all cases – with name, age, race, location and where possible incident details – from January 1, 2007 – August 31, 2014 in order to remember each individual; to investigate who is impacted by race, age, gender and community (location of the shooting); and to learn from their experiences in an attempt to save lives in the future.<sup>2</sup> Based on these specific case histories, the report looks for trends or commonalities among incidents and raises concerns regarding suspicious and troubling patterns. Finally, the report makes some comparisons between LA and other jurisdictions, and begins to evaluate media's coverage of officer-involved homicides.



*This report also leaves us with many unanswered questions and unexplored concerns, which we include at the end of this summary.*

## Dedicated to Our Families and Friends Left Behind

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is led by youth of color who have been directly impacted by police violence, stop and frisks, arrest, detention, incarceration and deportation.

We are honored to stand with the family, neighbors and friends of Ezell Ford - another young man killed by law enforcement on the streets of Los Angeles on August 11, 2014. For four years, Ezell

<sup>1</sup> The report only documents deaths caused directly by law enforcement use of force. Therefore it does not include five homicides that occurred during a single officer-involved shooting – despite the fact that the Coroner's office delineates those deaths as "officer-involved" – because this report is not documenting cases where people are killed by a civilian, even if law enforcement was also at the scene. In other words in the case described, only the civilian shooter who was killed by law enforcement is included in the statistics within this report.

<sup>2</sup> The data on officer-involved shootings documented in this report began as a combining of two lists – one itemized by Colby Lenz while studying at the University of Southern California and volunteering as a researcher with the Youth Justice Coalition, and another itemized by Kim McGill, an organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition created in an effort to document the impact of police use of force on individuals, their families and communities. These lists were checked for accuracy and built upon with homicide data from the Los Angeles Coroner's Office. Finally, additional details were gathered from several local media outlets – most notably the Los Angeles Times, Daily News, La Opinion, and KCAL 9 TV.

was friend of two YJC members who also live on the block where he was shot. They knew Ezell “as a sweet person who never hurt anyone.”<sup>3</sup>

Ezell is only the most recent of many people killed by law enforcement whose family and/or friends are also connected to the YJC including: *Gonzalo Martinez, Deandre Brunston, Susie Peña, Marcus Smith, Woodrow Player III, Darrick Collins, James “Mookie” Davis, Jonathan Cuevas, Kevin Wooten and De’Angelo Lopez.*

For people who have never known anyone who was killed by law enforcement, it’s hard to imagine how families and friends not only grieve in the ways we all do when someone we care about dies – but also have to mount a scary, public fight – against many of the largest law enforcement departments and court systems in the world -- without money, or a team of legal advisors, or (usually) without past experience with organizing or politics.

*We have been amazed by the strength and courage of families who have:*

- Fought for their right to see their children in the hospital or at the Coroner’s office;
- Endured the re-victimization and degradation of their loved ones in the media – often labeled “parolees, felons, gang members, armed and dangerous” – they have struggled to create a balanced and humane picture, to correct lies when they are told, and to promote that *all* people deserve to be considered innocent until a full and fair investigation is conducted.
- Given countless interviews and answered endless questions in the hopes that some reporters will cover the story fairly and thoroughly.
- Have buried their children in front of the entire world, and shared their mourning at a time when they most wanted to be left alone.
- Stood up to law enforcement leaders to ask questions and demand answers when few were given.
- Testified – many speaking publicly for the first time – in front of city councils, county supervisors and police commissions.
- Have organized candlelight vigils, marches, rallies and press conferences – not only when the killing first happened – but year after year, so their child would not be erased from L.A.’s memory.
- Handled the marathon court process with dignity and steadfastness despite intimidation and disrespect from law enforcement and court officials.
- And have rushed to the side of other families throughout LA County, Southern California and the state to walk them through the same struggles, even though each death reopens old wounds.

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<sup>3</sup> In the photo on the right on page 3, Marcus Smith’s family organized a vigil after Marcus’ shooting on May 17, 2009. Inglewood Police arrived at a party in response to a noise complaint with both flashlights and guns out. They ordered everyone to leave the party, and as Marcus walked down the stairs of the apartment complex - according to Lt. Mike McBride of the Inglewood Police – he “pointed a semi-automatic handgun at the officers.” Several witnesses at the party claim Marcus was unarmed, that he had slipped on the stairs, and that he had his hands up when he was shot. Four officers at the scene shot Marcus multiple times. Marcus was the father of three young daughters. His family members received civil settlements totaling \$2.4 million. The officers who shot Marcus were required to submit to re-training.

**This report is for** the youth – especially youth of color in California and throughout the world – who leave home every day and wonder if they'll come home. It's for the parents and grandparents who have to teach 8 year-olds what to do when they're stopped by the police. It's for all Los Angeles, because no one will have a future here until *all youth* have a future here. It's also for law enforcement personnel and their families, because the aggressive policing of our communities means that they work daily with the stress that comes from both being feared and unappreciated and also being afraid, angry or distrustful of the community. But, most of all it's for the families who have buried loved ones killed by law enforcement – those we have stood with and most we have never met – who will never be whole again.

### The Scale - Number of Law Enforcement-Involved Homicides

**At Least 589 Deaths in Less Than 15 Years, January 1, 2000 – August 31, 2014**

Ezell Ford was #586 – the 586<sup>th</sup> *recorded* person killed by LA County law enforcement since 2000. Although he was just killed on August 11<sup>th</sup> — there were three additional people killed by law enforcement in LA before the end of August 2014, for a total of at least 589 in less than 15 years. **That's almost one community member killed each week.**

### Number of People Killed by Law Enforcement in LA County Each Year, 2000-2014 and % of All Homicides:

2000: **33** out of 1074 killings; **3%** of all homicides  
 2001: **28** out of 1159 killings; **2.5%** of all homicides  
 2002: **36** out of 1231 killings; **3%** of all homicides  
 2003: **52** out of 1141 killings; **4.5%** of all homicides  
 2004: **46** out of 1133 killings; **4%** of all homicides  
 2005: **41** out of 1146 killings; **3.5%** of all homicides  
 2006: **39** out of 1100 killings; **3.5%** of all homicides  
 2007: **40** out of 941 killings; **4%** of all homicides  
 2008: **43** out of 891 killings; **5%** of all homicides  
 2009: **36** out of 796 killings; **4.5%** of all homicides  
 2010: **33** out of 692 killings; **5%** of all homicides  
 2011: **54** out of 649 killings; **8%** of all homicides  
 2012: **38** out of 659 killings; **6%** of all homicides  
 2013: **44** out of 595 killings; **7%** of all homicides  
 2014 January 1st – August 31st: **26** out of 360 killings; **7%** of all homicides

### Fairness and Transparency in Analysis:

*Five additional deaths are listed by media and official use of force statistics as “officer-involved” shootings, and the YJC included these numbers in our original data released on September 2, 2014. However, since these deaths were caused by a civilian shooter, we have revised our*



**analysis to reduce the total number of deaths caused by law enforcement use of force between 2000 – August 2014 by 5.**

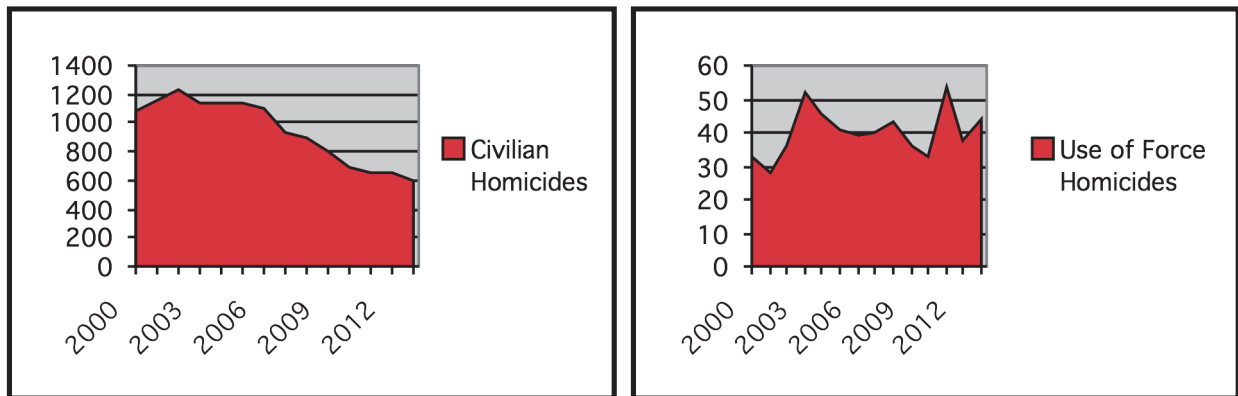
*In addition, two additional deaths in 2007 are listed by some media as officer-involved homicides; and one additional death was reported to us by the community in 2011. But the YJC can find no further information, and has not confirmed these deaths with the Coroner's Office. Therefore, we listed these deaths in the report of specific cases from 2007-2014 while we seek – and encourage others to seek – additional information. **We did not include these deaths in our report's data or overall analysis.***

**Law enforcement use of force resulting in death is higher now than when LA had twice as many murders.** There has been a 48.3% drop in community and domestic violence resulting in homicide – 595 in 2013 compared to 1231 in 2002. According to the Los Angeles Police Department (locally) and FBI crime statistics (nationally), in LA and in most regions throughout the nation, violent crime is at its lowest levels since the 1950s.

**If the killing of community residents is one measure of police-community relations,** then law enforcement's fear, distrust and/or aggressive treatment of people – especially youth and people of color – have not improved, and may have increased. From 2000 – 2006 when overall homicides in LA County ranged between 1074 and 1231, officer-involved killings were between 2.5% and 4.5% of the total, and **averaged 3% with a total of 275 deaths.**

By comparison, since 2007, when community violence began to decline significantly, **law enforcement use of deadly force resulting in homicide as a percentage of all homicides has doubled to between 4 and 8%, averaging 6% with a total of 314 deaths.**

**This has also resulted in 39 more deaths caused by law enforcement use of force between 2007 and August 31<sup>st</sup> of 2014 than from 2000-2006.**



**589** PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN L.A. SINCE 2000

**YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION**

**A LOOK AT THE 315 PEOPLE KILLED FROM 2007-2014**

- 97% MALE**
- 82% BLACK & LATINO\***  
AT LEAST 19 WERE MENTALLY ILL, AUTISTIC OR DEAF
- 52% UNDER 30**
- AT LEAST 19** WERE SHOT BECAUSE "THEY REACHED FOR THEIR WAISTBAND;" **9** WERE RUNNING AWAY; **5** WERE DRUNK; **MORE THAN 30** "HAD A KNIFE, A POLE, A TREE BRANCH..." AT LEAST **8** WERE THREATENING TO KILL THEMSELVES, BUT WERE KILLED BY OFFICERS WHO WERE CALLED TO SAVE THEM.

**LINE CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

Based on homicide data, LA County Department of the Coroner. ★ In LA County's official homicide reports of these cases, the racial category "White" appears to also include several people of Arab and Latino descent.

**Police use of force resulting in a death also increased as the federal consent decree against the LAPD was being lifted – both within the LAPD’s jurisdictions and countywide.** In 2013 – the year that the federal court released the LAPD from the federal consent decree that was established to address officer misconduct, corruption and violence – LA County experienced the highest rates of officer-involved homicides. (In 2011, 8% of all homicides; in 2012, 6% of all homicides; and in 2013 and 2014 7% of all homicides were killings of civilians by police.)

### Who Is Impacted: Demographics of Deaths, 2007-2014

In order to determine the demographics of people killed by law enforcement, the YJC looked at each of the homicides as a result use of force between January 1, 2007 and August 31, 2014. The attached chart documents each of these incidents, and the following data is from that period.

**At least 314 people were killed by law enforcement from January 2007 – August 2014**

#### **Statistics by Gender, 2007-2014**

**Male: 97%** (304/314)

**Female: 3%** (10/314)

#### **314 Total**

*Note: The Coroner, law enforcement officials and media outlets have not included data on LGBTQ and transgender people impacted by law enforcement use of force resulting in homicides. The statistics in this report do not indicate that no LGBT2Q2 people were killed, but rather indicate the need for further investigation.*

#### **Statistics by Race, 2007-2014**

**Black: 28%** of those killed (88/314); 9.2% of LA County’s population.

**Latino/a:\* 53.5%** of those killed (168/314); 48.3% of LA County’s population.

**White:\* 15.4%** (48/314); 27.2% of LA County’s population.

**Asian/Pacific Islander: 2.8%** (9/314); 15% of LA County’s population.

**Unclassified: 0.3%** (1/314)

*\*The racial category “White” appears to also include many people of Arab and Latino descent.*

#### **Total 314**

#### **Statistics by Age, 2007-2014**

Under 21 yrs: 15% (47/314)

Under 25 yrs: 41% (129/314)

Under 30 yrs: 52% (163/314)

Under 40 yrs: 73% (228/314)

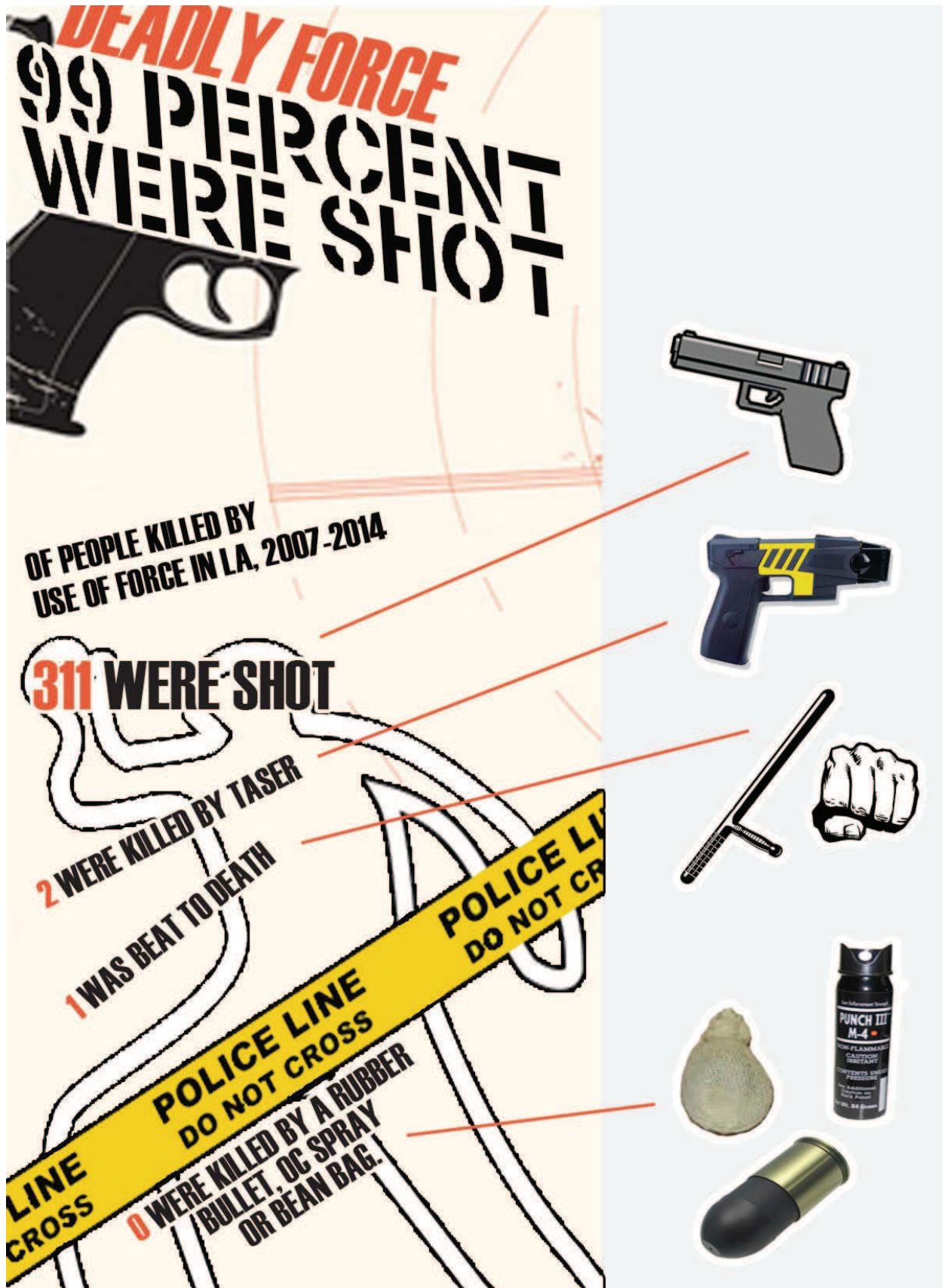
50 yrs & under: 88% (271/314)

51 yrs & over: 12% (36/314)

60 yrs & over: 4% (11/314)

#### **Total 314**







### 2007-2014 Disturbing Patterns in Homicide Resulting from Law Enforcement Use of Force

*As described above, the attached chart documents each of the incidents of law enforcement use of force resulting in a homicide in LA County between 2000 and 2014.*

In reading through the limited records we have access to, several disturbing patterns emerge including, but not limited to, law enforcement's inability to adequately and safely address the concerns and actions of people exhibiting mental illness and/or intoxication – including killing several people when they were called to the scene to prevent a suicide; the inability to law enforcement to fairly, safely and humanely treat and protect people with disabilities; the fear, hatred and/or distrust that exists between law enforcement and youth of color; the criminalization and violent response to people who are homeless or perceived as homeless; the failure of law enforcement to listen to and utilize family and community support to prevent violence; the repeated use of “reached for waistband,” “though they had a weapon” as evidence for the need to shoot; the high number of people who were shot while running away from police; the high number of incidents where police shot at automobiles; the high number of people who were in possession of a “fake” or “replica” gun; the high number of people who were shot while possessing a “weapon” other than a gun, including rocks, tree branches and poles; and the high number of incidents that begin with domestic violence or domestic disputes, indicating the need for alternative response to dealing with violence within families and relationships.

### Shoot to Kill - Law Enforcement Policy on Use of Force

All but three of the 589 people killed by LA County law enforcement between January 2000 and August 2014 – 586 people total – have gunshot(s) listed as their cause of death. Only two people died from a taser, one from a physical beating, and none were killed by a beanbag, rubber bullet, physical restraint or Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray. The potential for greater use of other means to stop, detain or disarm people seems obvious.

In our many conversations and post-shooting forums with law enforcement leaders in LA County, we have regularly been told that the policy for officers across the county is to “**shoot to kill**,” sometimes referred to by some officers we have talked to as “**shoot to stop**.”

While we have not investigated the policies of all 57 different law enforcement agencies across the county – (*we do feel such an investigation is needed*) – the policy that has consistently been explained to us for the training and supervision of law enforcement in the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department and the Los Angeles Police Department is that:

- Officers and deputies are trained to shoot for the torso, also referred to as vital organs, because (a) limbs and the head are much harder to aim for and hit; and (b) the goal is to *stop* an individual, and gun shots to arms and legs are not guaranteed fully subdue someone.

In addition, we and other community members regularly ask why someone who was running away, why someone who was not firing or even pointing a gun, or why individuals who possess something other than a gun – such as a baseball bat, stick or tree branch, knife, screw driver, rock, etc. – are still responded to with gunfire. ***In examining state and federal law, as well as the policies of individual departments, law enforcement has a very different burden of proof in its use of deadly force.***

In arguing self-defense, a civilian – even within their own home – must prove that the individual they attack poses an immediate threat to their life. By comparison, in order to use deadly force, law enforcement officers must demonstrate that the person posed a threat to the safety of the officers *or others* in the community. Therefore, even the shooting in the back of someone running away, can be considered a “justifiable homicide” when law enforcement claim that they posed a potential threat to community safety.

We believe that this burden for law enforcement use of force is far too low, and the cases listed below from 2007-2014 document the results when officers see so many people – especially youth of color, the homeless, mentally ill or disabled, or people who are intoxicated – as serious threats to community safety.

We urge that local, state and national organizing spark conversations, legislation and radical policy and procedural changes in law enforcement’s use of force. We further urge that police, Probation and prison guards *not* take over roles (as is the current trend) better served by mental health workers, community intervention workers/peacebuilders, and drug and alcohol treatment counselors. ***Had those resources existed in our communities over the past 15 years – (even at the levels that they existed in the LA County of the 1960s pre-Proposition 13, before the “war on drugs” and “war on gangs,” before the militarization of police and massive build-up of prisons) we believe many of the 589 people killed by law enforcement in LA County between January 2000 and August 2014 would still be alive.***

### **Youth Justice Coalition’s Policy and Program Recommendations**

#### ***To significantly reduce police and community violence in Los Angeles County:***

**1. LA County must establish a countywide task force** and make a commitment to implement recommendations that are developed. *The roles of the Task Force must include:*

- Researching police use of force in all 57 departments across L.A.;
- Providing for greater community oversight, accountability and transparency regarding investigations of police use of force and police misconduct; and
- Empowering trusted and politically independent representatives from community, victims’ families, youth, clergy, civil rights and State and Federal Department of Justice officials in the work of community investigation and oversight of the police; and
- Reviewing the limitations on police accountability under the State’s Police Bill of Rights and challenging any state policy that undermines community safety.

**2. The California State Attorney General must appoint and supervise an Independent Prosecutor** to investigate and – if needed – prosecute all police use of force resulting in serious injury or death. It is unrealistic that a County Prosecutor, who must build all their cases with the close cooperation of local law enforcement, will ever have the independence, intent or power needed to prosecute officer wrongdoing.

**3. US Attorney General Eric Holder must launch a civil rights investigation into officer-involved shootings, use of force and charges of misconduct in LA County.**

**4. State and Congressional legislators must hold hearings** on law enforcement stop and frisk, use of force, and concerns with investigation and transparency – **including changes needed to the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights, California Government Code Section 3300-3311.3300**, – and engage the communities most impacted by aggressive policing in the creation and implementation of new laws to prevent use of force, as well as mass criminalization and incarceration of discriminated and vulnerable populations.

**5. The LA County Board of Supervisors must establish a community oversight commission over the LA county Sheriffs Department** to monitor use of force, deputy conduct on the streets, on the Metro system and within county jails, and to review and set department policies.

***To address community and family concerns immediately after law enforcement use of force resulting in homicide:***

**1. Maintain fairness and withhold judgment.** After an incident, do not discredit the victim, their family or community. Give the same answer when people ask about the possible misconduct or excessive use of force by an officer – “We can not comment because the incident is under investigation.” (Often, law enforcement claims the person was armed, pointed a gun at officers, was on Parole, was a “gang member,” etc. These statements are made immediately after an incident without having any opportunity to investigate. Often, the information is incorrect, and there is rarely any correction or official apology issued. *The damage to community trust and re-victimization of the family is lasting.*

**2. Open without delay, and maintain regular and respectful communication with victims’ families.**

**3. Hold a community meeting** called by trusted intervention workers, clergy and/or community based organizations directly after any incident to air community concerns, and answer questions.

**4. Apologize publicly when police actions are wrongful.**

**5. Make it clear to the community that officers involved in any actions resulting in death are removed from field duty pending an investigation.** If this is not standard procedure, make it procedure.



**6. Throughout the process, act with humility**, and do not make any comments that deflect responsibility away from the Department, such as “officers risk their lives every day,” or “many more people are killed by gang violence.”

***End the “war on gangs.” A war on gangs is a war on youth of color.***

**1. End the use of stop and frisk, gang databases and gang injunctions** that target young men of color without probable cause, result in few confiscations of drugs or guns, further isolate young people from their communities and essential resources and opportunities, and that increase tension and violence between the police and our communities.

*Until then:*

**2. Fully implement Senate Bill 458** (which went into effect as state law in January of 2014) to ensure that youth added to the CalGang Database are notified, have a right to appeal and a right to removal. Extend those rights to people over the age of 18.

**3.** Given that data released by the Youth Justice Coalition documents that gang injunctions have been used as a tool for gentrification, displacement and development and have not positively impacted public safety, **declare a moratorium on new gang injunctions in LA County, ensure that all current injunctions term out after 5 years, and work with public housing to end the evictions** of people – and in some cases their entire families – after either allegations or convictions of a gang injunction violation.

***Invest in positive youth development:***

**1. End the Sheriffs and municipal police enforcement’s ticketing and arrest for suspected fare evasion on buses and Metros** – the #1 cause of ticketing for youth in LA County – and use the savings in law enforcement costs to implement free Metro passes for all students pre-school through college.

**2. Replace gang injunction “safety zones” with youth empowerment zones** and saturate those areas with opportunities for employment, education, prevention and intervention.

**3.** For 40 years, Los Angeles, California and the nation have concentrated funding on school and municipal police, detention, incarceration and deportation resulting in mass criminalization of youth of color, and the elimination of funds for schools and community resources. **Match (reinvest) at least 1% of funds used to lock youth up (law enforcement, court, District Attorney, City Attorney, Probation and juvenile, jail and prison costs) for positive youth development** with a focus on intervention/peacebuilders in our schools and neighborhoods, youth jobs and youth centers (in schools and communities) open from 3pm – midnight that offer recreation, the arts, educational enrichment, job readiness and placement, and violence prevention and intervention. Establish an LA County Office of Youth Development to fund, research, grow and support community based, owned and operated youth programs.

### Questions We Have About Ezell Ford's Death and All Law Enforcement Use of Force

One week after the shooting of Ezell Ford – Tuesday, August 19, 2014 – the YJC sponsored a community forum for residents to ask questions of LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, the Inspector General's Office, the LA County District Attorney's Office and the LA City Attorney. Over 200 people attended. But few questions were answered. These were the questions we collected prior to the event from Ezell's family and community members who live in South Central Los Angeles.

*We urge the media and officials to press for answers in Ezell Ford's death and all deaths.*

1. What happened the day that Ezell Ford was shot?
2. According to the people who live on that block, the police passed up a crowd of about 15 people at one end of the street and stopped to confront Ezell Ford. Why was he stopped and questioned in the first place? What was the reason for the stop?
3. Also according to witnesses, Ezell Ford was stopped by the same officers on the Friday before – August 8<sup>th</sup> – and questioned at gunpoint. Why was he stopped that day?
4. Were these patrols of 65<sup>th</sup> Street or in response to a complaint? If a complaint, what complaint?
5. Was this a usual patrol for the officers involved? Are they known to the community?
6. Ezell Ford was know to the community – and according to witnesses – also known by the police as someone having a mental illness. Did the LAPD officers that made the stop call the PERT (Psychiatric Emergency Response Team)? If not, why not? If they did, why didn't they wait until the PERT arrived?
7. According to four witnesses the Youth Justice Coalition has spoken to, Ezell Ford was shot at least 3 times in the back while he was already on the ground. One witness said he was shot first when standing and then again once he was on the ground. Two people also said that some of the shots that hit Ezell were fired after he was handcuffed. Can you tell us what the claim is from the officers involved?
8. Have you gotten any information on the Coroner's report? When will the County Coroner's autopsy report be released to the public? *LAPD Chief Beck did say at the forum that, "When the report is ready there will be a hold on it in order to not influence the potential stories of witnesses."*
9. The LAPD has installed cameras into many or all of their squad cars and onto the uniforms of many officers. What video footage do you have from Ezell Ford's shooting? When will that footage be released to the public? If there is no footage, why were there no cameras that day?
10. What is the LAPD's policy regarding officers involved in shootings or other use of force?

11. Where are the two officers involved now?

12. What rank and experience did the officers involved in the shooting have? *According to Chief Beck at the forum, they were "basic level" police officers. According to one community leader who spoke with the YJC, they were gang officers. That has now also been confirmed now publicly.*

13. Did either of the officers involved have any civilian complaints or past disciplinary write-ups?

11. When are the names of the officers involved in shootings released? *Chief Beck stated at the forum that, "The LAPD always releases names of officers, but the first thing we do is make sure they're not at risk. We have some investigative steps to take to make sure there are no steps towards harm known as a "threat assessment." The LAPD didn't release the names until two weeks after Ezell's shooting.*

12. Why was deadly force used? Why was Ezell Ford not subdued by physical restraint, a taser, pepper spray or some other means? *According to Chief Beck, "We don't have the answer to that. The crux of the investigation is the 'why.' We need to know whether or not this was justifiable under the law. This is what the investigation is about and will reveal. Do not judge these officers, just like we don't prejudge Ezell Make sure that the Inspector General's office has all the facts, so something doesn't slip through the cracks or there isn't a rush to judgment."*

13. Can you explain why LAPD officers are trained to "shoot to kill" – aiming for vital organs in the torso - as opposed to shoot to injure?

14. According to witnesses at the scene, it took the fire department 19 minutes to come and the EMTs 23 minutes to come? Witnesses also said that they called 911. What time was the EMT called? Who first made the call? How long did it take the fire department and the EMTs to get to the scene? What record do you have regarding the arrival of the paramedics? What are your records to validate these arrival times and how can the public get those records?

15. Why did it take so long for medical personnel to arrive if the fire station is less than 2 blocks away?

16. What's the department's policy regarding notifying the family after an officer-involved shooting? Was the policy followed that day?

17. Who was charged with calling the family regarding Ezell Ford? Why was the family never informed he was at the hospital or given the opportunity to see him?

18. How was Ezell's mother treated when she arrived at the scene when she arrived?

19. As a victim of a deadly shooting, what help will the family receive from the District Attorney's Victims' Compensation Fund to bury Ezell Ford?

20. Can you tell us, from your own perspective, why LA County leads the nation in officer-involved shootings?



21. How do you feel your relationship is with the communities of South Central LA specifically within the Newton Division and the larger Central Bureau?

### **Additional Investigation Needed**

*This report leaves us with many unanswered questions and unexplored concerns including the need to:*

- Document deaths by law enforcement agency and division, as well as by individual officers, ranks and units;
- Document, count in the official statistics, and examine officer-involved injuries and homicides – as well as illness, injuries and deaths due to negligence – that occur within custody (courts, juvenile halls, Probation camps, lock-down placements, county jails, state and federal prisons, immigration detention centers, and other institutions) and the impact of these deaths on the residents of Los Angeles;
- Track and count in the official statistics the numbers of individuals who die from complications due to law enforcement use of force, but which are not counted as homicides because investigations and check-ins rarely happen with people after the initial incident;
- Track the impact of use of force incidents on officers' work assignments; mental health, professional, family and community relationships, and career advancement;
- Expose the criminalization, re-victimization and negative labeling of people killed by law enforcement in official statements, public hearings and press conferences and addressing when if ever inaccurate statements are corrected;
- Track the number and impact of stop and frisk policies on public safety, law enforcement use of force, as well as on individual and community criminalization and morale;
- Track law enforcement use of force within gang injunction zones compared to other communities;
- Track the official response to civilian complaints and the impact both on officers who receive them, and on community individuals and organizations who file them;
- Expose the results of investigations, autopsies, officer discipline procedures and law suits for each case, including why the initial contact with law enforcement occurred, and whether or not individuals were armed, used a weapon, or were even committing a crime;
- Examine the way in which law enforcement responds to incidents involving mentally ill, disabled and/or intoxicated people as well as alternative measures for addressing public health concerns than through suppression;
- Track the number of incidents where undocumented people are the victims and exploring how immigration status impacts police use of force;
- Track the number of incidents where LGBT2Q2 people are the victims and exploring how gender identity impacts police use of force;
- Document the impact of police violence on community trauma, PTSD and trust of law enforcement and other public agencies;

- Expose the children left behind by parents or caregivers who are killed, as well as loss of income and other supports, and the long-term impact this has on families and communities;
- Investigate other possible tactics to subdue people and examine why in LA, gun fire is nearly always the method used by law enforcement;
- Examine the weaknesses in the ability of local law enforcement departments, civilian review boards, prosecutors and elected officials to adequately supervise and hold accountable law enforcement, including investigating the California State *Police Officers' Bill of Rights*, and the possible impact this has on blocking discipline, supervision, accountability and prosecution of officers;
- Investigate the impact that law enforcement's takeover of traditional counseling, mental health and community outreach, and school safety roles on the use of force against civilian populations;
- Investigate the impact that increased use of surveillance technology and military tactics and weaponry has on law enforcement use of force, and civilian injuries or deaths;
- Document the impact of and/or link between police violence and gentrification and displacement;
- Document media investigation and coverage of law enforcement use of force, including a through review of who are seen as sources for information, the nearly total reliance on law enforcement as the sole source of information in most cases, and the assumptions made that officials sources are accurate;
- Thoroughly investigate use of force policies, as well as recruitment, training, supervision, investigation, prosecution and community oversight practices in other jurisdictions in the US and throughout the world in order to find best practices; and
- Investigate why most media outlets, journalists, researchers and civil and human rights advocates have been so supportive of law enforcement during a 15-year period during which time LA County ranks far ahead of the rest of the nation in law enforcement use of force.

*The YJC makes a commitment to investigating each of these issues further, and also urges others to do the same.*

### **How We Feel - Statement from the Youth Justice Coalition Read at Ezell Ford's Burial**

This summer of 2014 is 50 years after Mississippi's Freedom Summer, 49 years after the Watts Rebellion, 46 years after the East LA High School Walk Outs, 22 years since the LA Uprising, and young people of color in Los Angeles and across the nation are ALL STILL FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE.

We know personally that police violence isn't only the bullets that pierce our dome, but the police baton that breaks our bones, and the battering ram that breaks our homes. It's the war on drugs and the war on gangs that gentrifies our communities and fills our prisons. It's the separation of families through gang injunctions, incarceration and deportation that leaves us orphaned. It's California's addiction to police and prison spending that bankrupts our schools and shuts down

positive resources in our communities – jobs, youth centers, libraries, health and mental health clinics, parks and playgrounds. It's these programs that Ezell needed and all of us need – not the police lock-down of our neighborhoods.

We want to live in a County where we as young people of color are not feared, hated, stopped and cuffed, locked up, locked down and locked out. We want to live in a County that *does not* lead the nation in police shootings. We want to live in a County where “to protect and serve” doesn't mean to protect property and serve the rich.

We are fighting so that one day Los Angeles will NOT HAVE the world's largest juvenile halls, the world's largest county jails, the world's largest Probation Department or feed into the world's largest prison system. We want a day when our schools have more peacebuilders than police and more counselors than Probation officers.

We are organizing in the hopes that our little brothers and sisters won't walk through metal detectors and razor wire to enter school, in the hopes that we will send more youth to college than prison.

We want all L.A. – the news reporters, the university professors, the politicians, and police – TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT EZELL FORD THE ALL THE YOUTH. Ezell's generation – OUR GENERATION – has the lowest violent crime rate of any generation since the 1950's. But the police still hunt us down – still stop and frisk and smack us around – still shoot to kill – still build more jails they plan to fill. <sup>4</sup>

***After this treatment, you can't blame the youth.***

Not when we sag our jeans  
 Not when we look mean  
 Not when we get tattoos to speak our dreams  
 Not when we're left alone to raise ourselves  
 In group homes or prison cells  
 Or on cracked concrete  
 Where blood and broken promises meet  
 And for all of us who rep our hood  
 Above all others to be understood  
 We won't find our enemies on the street  
 They're just like us, struggling to eat  
 Unite all neighborhoods instead to fight for *this* truth  
 Not one more parent will bury their youth



Demand a city, a state and a nation where Ezell Ford and Deandre Brunston, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, Oscar Grant, Suzie Peña, and Devin Brown would be in college and not in the ground.

<sup>4</sup> The photo at right is of children gathered at Leimert Park in South Central Los Angeles to protest the LAPD shooting of 13-year-old Devon Brown.