

Profiles Of Black Men Who Are Championed By BLM

Eric Garner

Date and location of incident: The incident occurred on July 17, 2014 in the NYC borough of Staten Island.

Incident description: "Quality-of-life coordinator," Officer Justin Damico, along with Officer Daniel Pantaleo attempted to arrest the 395 pound, asthmatic and diabetic, Eric Garner for selling untaxed cigarettes. As Officer Pantaleo [attempted](#) to put the handcuffs on Garner he pulled his arms away. Pantaleo placed his arm around Garner's neck, placing him in a [neck-hold](#), which the Medical Examiner referred to as a chokehold. They fell to the ground and Pantaleo let go of Garner. The hold lasted about 15 seconds. Garner, on the ground and no longer being restrained by Pantaleo, began repeating, "I can't breathe." The supervising African-American NYPD sergeant, Kizzy Adonis, stated in the police report, "The perpetrator's condition did not seem serious and he did not appear to get worse." "A police sergeant called an ambulance and indicated that Garner was having trouble breathing, but [reportedly](#) added that he 'did not appear to be in great distress.'" Garner suffered a heart attack enroute to the hospital and was pronounced dead an hour later. The incident was caught on tape by a friend of Garner's.

Previous criminal history: Eric Garner had a [history](#) of more than 30 arrests dating back to 1980, on charges including assault and grand larceny. At the time of the incident, Garner was out on "bail after being charged with illegally selling cigarettes, driving without a license, marijuana possession and false impersonation."

History with drugs: Although he was charged with marijuana possession, there is no information on his use of marijuana or any other drug.

Michael Brown

Date and location of incident: The incident occurred on August 9, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, a St. Louis suburb.

Incident description: Michael Brown stole several packages of cigarillos from Ferguson Market and Liquor. A call went out over the police radio for a "stealing in progress." Officer Darren Wilson responded to the call and drove toward Michael Brown and Dorian Johnson, telling the two men to walk on the sidewalk. Then Wilson backed up his SUV and parked at an angle stopping Brown and

Johnson from walking any further. Wilson attempted to open his door but it was blocked by Brown's body. Brown then reached into the SUV through the open driver's window and punched and grabbed Wilson. Wilson responded to Brown reaching into the SUV and punching him by pulling his gun. Brown grabbed the weapon and struggled with Wilson to gain control of it. Wilson fired, striking Brown in the hand. Brown then ran and Wilson ran after him. Brown ran a distance of about 180 ft. away from the car, then turned and ran back toward Wilson, at which point the officer felt physically threatened by the 6' 4," 292 pound Brown and fired at him in self-defense. Officer Wilson fired 12 shots and hit Brown approximately six times, who fell to the ground. The entire incident took place over a period of about two minutes.

Previous criminal history: Michael Brown turned 18 on May 20, 2014 and was killed on August 9, 2014. During those couple months he was not charged with any crimes. His juvenile records were [sealed](#).

History with drugs: An autopsy and toxicology [report](#) obtained by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* found that Michael Brown had THC, an active ingredient in marijuana, in his system at the time of his death.

Laquan McDonald

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on October 20, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois.

Incident description: "Shortly before 10:00 p.m., police were called to investigate McDonald at 4100 South Pulaski Road, responding to reports that he was carrying a knife and breaking into vehicles in a trucking yard at 41st Street and Kildare Avenue. When officers confronted McDonald, he used a knife with a 3-inch blade to slice the tire on a patrol vehicle and damage its windshield. McDonald walked away from police after numerous verbal instructions from officers to drop the knife, at which point responding officers requested Taser backup...."

"Video of the murder shows that [Officer Jason] Van Dyke was advancing on McDonald, while McDonald was walking away from Van Dyke when the first shot was fired. The first shot hit McDonald, who spun and fell to the ground. As McDonald lay on the ground, still holding the knife, Van Dyke fired more shots into him. In total, Van Dyke fired 16 shots at McDonald in 14–15 seconds, expending the maximum capacity of his 9 mm semi-automatic firearm. Van Dyke was on the scene for less than 30 seconds before opening fire, and began shooting approximately six seconds after exiting his car. The first responding officer said

that he did not see the need to use force, and none of the approximately eight other officers on the scene fired their weapons."

Previous criminal history: McDonald was [arrested](#) 26 times from April 2011 to July 2014. He was first arrested at age 13 on allegations of cocaine possession.

History with drugs: McDonald [admitted](#) to using marijuana on a daily basis by age eleven. A toxicology report done by the Cook County Medical Examiner also [found PCP in McDonald's body](#) at the time of death. In 2018, during the [trial](#) of officer Jason Van Dyke "a pharmacologist testified that McDonald had enough PCP in his bloodstream to cause hallucinations, rage, and violence to trigger 'significant bizarre behavior' and leave him dangerous to himself and others."

Walter Scott

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on April 4, 2015 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Incident description: Walter Scott, 50, is pulled over by Michael Slager, an officer for the North Charleston Police Department, for a broken tail light on his car. At some point during the stop, Scott flees from his vehicle and is chased on foot by Slager. The officer tases Scott and is able to bring him to the ground, but a struggle ensues between the two men during the attempted arrest. Officer Slager told investigators that [Scott was able to get a hold of his taser](#) and was attempting to tase the officer. Scott eventually breaks free and continues to flee on foot. Slager orders Scott to stop; when Scott refuses, the officer fires eight shots at Scott in the back. He falls to the ground and is declared dead at the scene.

Previous criminal history: At the time of his death, Scott had [an outstanding bench warrant for unpaid child support](#).

History with drugs: Scott [received a general discharge under honorable conditions](#) from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1986 for drug-related offenses. Toxicology reports also showed that Scott had [traces of cocaine and alcohol](#) in his system at the time of his death.

Freddie Gray

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on April 12, 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Incident description: Four police officers are patrolling the street in Baltimore when 25-year-old Freddie Gray notices the officers. Without any provocation, he runs away.

This causes alarm among the police and they chase after Gray, eventually catching up with him. While searching Gray, police discover what they believe to be an illegal switchblade and place him under arrest. During the arrest, police struggle to place Gray in a police van. (William Porter, one of the arresting officers, said that Gray was "[actively resisting arrest](#)" during the encounter.) It was reported that Gray's legs went limp and that he told officers he had asthma and needed his inhaler.

Once Gray is placed in the van it makes at least four stops with Gray inside. During the first stop, officers check on Gray, restrain him with leg irons, and place him on the floor of the van. During the additional stops, Gray can be heard in the back saying that he needs medical help. At the time of the final stop, police notice that Gray is not breathing. The police call for medical professionals and Gray is taken to the hospital. It was revealed that Gray suffered a spinal cord injury while on the floor of the van, which led to cardiac arrest. He died 7 days later due to his injuries.

Previous criminal history: Prior to his death, Gray was [arrested at least 18 times](#) for possession of cocaine and heroin, but also for loitering and for assault. He also had a juvenile record. However, because he was under 18, it cannot be made public.

History with drugs: Grey was well-known as a drug dealer and distributor in his neighborhood. He was also known to smoke marijuana. Gray's autopsy found [traces of opiates and cannabinoids](#) in his body at the time of his death.

Samuel DuBose

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on July 19, 2015 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Incident description: Samuel DuBose, 43, was stopped by University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing for a missing license plate on his car. The officer asks for DuBose's driver's license, but DuBose claims he does not have it on him. Tensing then asks DuBose to step out of the vehicle; he refuses to comply and instead reaches for the ignition. The officer then reaches inside DuBose's car and DuBose attempts to drive away with the officer on the side of the vehicle. [Fearing](#)

[being dragged by the car](#), Tensing pulls out his gun and fires a shot. The shot hits DuBose in the head and he is killed instantly.

Previous criminal history: DuBose [had a lengthy criminal history](#) dating back to his teenage years. Beginning as a juvenile, he was issued citations or arrested at least 90 times, the majority of which involved traffic infractions. He was also arrested 25 times for marijuana possession.

History with drugs: In addition to Dubose's prior marijuana arrests, police found [several bags of marijuana](#) in his car during the traffic stop. Toxicology reports also found [THC in his blood](#) at the time of death.

Alton Sterling

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on July 5, 2016 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Incident description: Two Baton Rouge police officers [responded to a call](#) of a man holding a handgun and threatening customers in front of a convenience store. When police arrived, they found Alton Sterling standing outside of the store selling CDs. Believing Sterling to be the suspect, officers ordered him to put his hands on the hood of a car; Sterling resisted the command and began to struggle with one of the officers. In an attempt to restrain him, Sterling is tased and is tackled to the ground. Amid the struggle, one of the officers claims to see Sterling with a gun. The other officer then fires shots at Sterling's chest and back. Sterling was pronounced dead at the scene due to his injuries.

Previous criminal history: In 2009, [Sterling was charged](#) with resisting arrest, illegal carrying of a weapon, and possession of marijuana after he got in an altercation with a police officer outside a convenience store. In 2011, [Sterling pleaded guilty](#) to possessing a firearm while a felon and illegally carrying weapons.

History with drugs: In addition to the 2009 charge of possession of marijuana, [toxicology reports found](#) traces of alcohol, methamphetamines, cocaine, opiates, and THC in Sterling's body at the time of his death.

Philando Castile

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on July 6, 2016 in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul.

Incident description: Officer Jeronimo Yanez of the St. Anthony, MN Police Department pulled over 32 year old Philando Castile for a broken brake light. (It was later revealed that Yanez pulled over Castile because he [matched the description of a robbery suspect](#).) Yanez asked for Castile's license and proof of insurance. Castile complies and informs Yanez that he is carrying a legal firearm; Yanez instructs him not to reach for it. Yanez then claims that he saw Castile reaching for his gun. He fired 7 close range shots at Castile, hitting him in the side. Medical personnel transported Castile to the local hospital where he died from his injuries.

It is unclear whether or not Castile was disobeying Officer Yanez's commands and attempting to reach for his gun. Officer Yanez [stated](#) that he "thought [Castile] had the gun in his hand." However, Castile [said to Yanez](#) that he "wasn't reaching" for the gun and his girlfriend, who was sitting in the passenger seat during the incident, said that he was reaching for his ID.

Previous criminal history: Castile [had been pulled over at least 52 times](#) for minor traffic infractions between 2002 and his death. Most of these were "minor offenses including speeding, driving without a muffler and not wearing a seatbelt."

History with drugs: Officer Yanez claimed that he [smelled marijuana](#) coming from Castile's car when he pulled him over. A [6 gram bag of marijuana](#) was found in Castile's car. An autopsy further revealed that Castile had [THC in his system](#) at the time of his death.

George Floyd

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Incident description: Minneapolis police are called after reports of a black man using a counterfeit \$20 bill at a grocery store. When they arrive, they find George Floyd sitting in a car. Police, with guns drawn, ask Floyd to step out of the vehicle. Floyd initially agrees, but [resists](#) while attempting to be placed in the police car. (Floyd claimed that he had anxiety over being placed in the car and that he was claustrophobic.) Responding officer Derek Chauvin pulls Floyd to the ground and places his knee on his neck to restrain him. After about 8 minutes, Chauvin removed his knee, and Floyd was unresponsive. Floyd was transported by medical personnel to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Previous criminal history: Floyd had a [criminal history](#) spanning over 20 years. Between 1998 and 2005, he was arrested for possession of cocaine, trespassing, and firearms charges. In 2009, he pled guilty to aggravated robbery after attempting to rob a pregnant woman with a gun and was sentenced to 5 years in prison. In 2019, he was arrested for drug possession.

History with drugs: In addition to the cocaine charges, Floyd was a frequent user of drugs. His girlfriend said that both she and Floyd [struggled with opioid addiction](#). An autopsy of Floyd's body revealed he had [methamphetamines and fentanyl in his system](#) at the time of his arrest.

Jacob Blake

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on August 23, 2020 in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Incident description: Kenosha police responded to a call of a domestic disturbance. When police arrived, they found 29-year-old Blake on the passenger's side of his girlfriend's SUV attempting to enter the vehicle. Police learned that Blake had an outstanding warrant and attempted to place him under arrest. At this point, Blake struggled with the arresting officers and refused to obey verbal commands. While police tried to bring him to the ground, he was able to break away from the officers. One officer [deployed two tasers at Blake](#), which proved to be unsuccessful.

Blake then began to walk around to the driver's side of the vehicle. One of the officers noticed that Blake [was carrying a knife](#) and ordered him to drop it. When Blake refused, an officer grabbed Blake in an attempt to prevent him from entering the vehicle. The officer then fired 7 point blank shots at Blake, hitting him in the back and side. Blake survived the shooting but became paralyzed from the waist down.

Previous criminal history: Blake [had warrants](#) for third-degree sexual assault, trespassing, and disorderly conduct at the time of the incident.

History with drugs: Blake had no prior history with drugs.

Daunte Wright

Date and location of incident: The incident took place on April 11, 2021 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

Incident description: While driving his car, 20-year-old Daunte Wright was stopped by Brooklyn Center officer Kim Potter for an expired registration tag. During the stop, Potter's partner informed her that Wright had an outstanding warrant for a misdemeanor and attempted to arrest him. During the arrest Wright attempted to get back in his car. Potter tells Wright that he will be tased, but while attempting to do so accidentally grabs her firearm and shoots Wright in the chest. Wright is able to drive off but crashes his car several blocks from the traffic stop. He is declared dead at the scene.

Previous criminal history: Wright [had a lengthy criminal record](#). In addition to his outstanding warrant, in 2019 Wright was arrested for assault and battery and aggravated robbery after choking and attempting to rob a woman in her apartment. At age 17, he was arrested after attempting to break into the home of a friend. He was also involved in two different shootings of which he was not charged.

History with drugs: Wright's girlfriend said that both of them [smoked marijuana](#). Toxicology reports also showed that [marijuana was present](#) in his body at the time of his death. Specifically, it found that he had 43 nanograms per milliliter of THC in his body, which according to medical examiner Lorren Jackson was "on the high end of numbers that I see."