IN SOLIDARITY

Name: Rumain Brisbon
Dates: 34 at the time of his death on   December 2, 2014
Place of Death: Phoenix, Arizona

Rumain Brisbon, father of four, was sitting in his auto with a friend when patrol officer Mark Rine approached the vehicle. A caller had reported that Mr. Brisbon and a passenger were selling drugs near the local 7-11. According to the officer's report, the license plate of the car matched that of the reported site of the deals. Mr. Brisbon exited the car and reached for his back pocket. A struggle ensued and Officer Rine, an honored 7-year veteran of the force, thinking that Brisbon had a gun in his back pocket, shot twice as they struggled near the door of Mr. Brisbon's girlfriend's apartment. Realizing that Rumain Brisbon was dead, Officer Mark Rine expressed his emotional state aloud, crying out "f-ck, f-ck".

This incounter is puzzling. Rumain Brisbon had been arrested at a prior time for selling marijuana and for a DUI. The pill bottle in his back pocket was oxycodone; the label had been removed. Marijuana and more oxycodone were found in his vehicle. The question is raised, why did Officer Rine approach the vehicle alone, especially when there was a license plate number on file and Mr. Brisbon's residence was known. A stakeout could have been arranged later. The other occupant of the vehicle attested that they were purchasing fast food for the family when the incident occurred. French fries were strewn about the site of the shooting.

Officer Rine, a former Marine MP, was cleared of any wrong-doing in the matter. The family of Rumain Brisbon received $1.5 M in a wrongful death suit filed against the city of Phoenix. At a demonstration immediately after the death of Mr. Brisbon, a police officer in riot gear stopped to apologize to Brisbon's 9-year-old daughter. The photo caught the attention of the national press.