

IN SOLIDARITY



Name: Tanisha Anderson

Dates: 37 at her death on November 13, 2014

Place of death: Cleveland, OH

Tanisha Anderson was having a bad day. The 37-year-old mother had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and placed on medication in her 20s. Tanisha had more good days than bad—running a day care center and raising her daughter competently. A good student, and a problem solver, her desire was to become a broadcast journalist. She was a straight A student at Cleveland State University. Periodic medication adjustments were made to keep her on track.

On a cold, icy November night, Tanisha, wearing no shoes and only a nightgown, became disoriented and kept attempting to leave the house in which she lived with her extended family. Her brother, Joell, who had often served as her protector, made a call to 911 for help, expecting an ambulance.

Two sets of police answered the call. The first set calmed Ms. Anderson down a bit and left. A second set of officers then arrived. Tanisha had agreed to allow them to transport her to a psychiatric hospital. For some unknown reason, Ms. Anderson became agitated as she neared the police vehicle. Rapidly the altercation escalated and soon Tanisha Anderson was lying on the pavement, exposed to her waist, handcuffed, and not breathing. Ms. Anderson arrived at the hospital in full cardiac arrest and died shortly after. It was said Tanisha died reciting the Lord's Prayer. The coroner reported that she died as a result of being physically restrained in a prone position by Cleveland police."

Three years of investigation and judicial reviews into the death of Tanisha Anderson ended when a Cuyahoga County grand jury declined to bring criminal charges against Cleveland police officers who handcuffed her and let her lie on the ground shortly before she died. The grand jury issued no-bills on all criminal charges that could have been filed against Cleveland police officers Scott Aldridge and Bryan Myers. In 2017, Tanisha's family received \$2.25 M from the city of Cleveland in a wrongful death suit.

July 14, 2020