



September 2, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On August 21, 2020, Trayford Pellerin was killed in a hail of gunfire by the Lafayette Police. An independent autopsy was performed on Mr. Pellerin's corpse, documenting the extreme brutality and anguish that he suffered in his last moments. While simply walking away from officers, Lafayette Police fired ten shots directly into his body, with an additional two to three more wounds as a result of projectile fire. The different angles of these entry wounds indicate that there were multiple shooters.

In addition to the bullet holes in Mr. Pellerin's dead body, there were at minimum four more holes in the wall of the gas station. Another bullet hit the glass door of the Shell station, causing it to shatter. In total, Lafayette Police fired at least seventeen shots at close range. While Mayor President Josh Guillory previously claimed that it was Mr. Pellerin who was a threat to customers, it is obvious that the *actual* threat was the police officers who without adequate justification fired close to twenty shots in the direction of the store—several bullets striking the building mere inches away where innocent customers stood. This inhumane disregard for the life of Mr. Pellerin and the individuals inside the gas station is utterly unacceptable from those we trust to serve and protect all of our community members.

Further, the forensic evidence does not support Mayor Guillory's assertion that there were "multiple tries" to subdue Mr. Pellerin "through the use of tasers." The pathologist found absolutely no evidence on Mr. Pellerin's body that he was ever struck by a taser. The pathologist likewise observed no defensive markings to suggest there was any sort of scuffle; instead there was only brush burns present on the knees as a result of falling to the ground. Exemplifying the cruel, uncaring, unjust



treatment of Mr. Pellerin by Lafayette Police were the bruises located on his wrists consistent with being handcuffed. This means that after Lafayette Police shot Mr. Pellerin ten times and lay dying on the concrete, those officers handcuffed Mr. Pellerin's limp and lifeless body.

It is a political and moral failing of our elected officials and the Lafayette Police that Mr. Pellerin's family had to incur the significant expense of an independent autopsy simply to begin to get answers about why and how their loved one died. As a community, we should be able to rely on our leaders to take charge and provide these answers, not merely attempt to justify their misconduct. The cost of this independent autopsy was not just financial for the Pellerin family—it has greatly worsened the grieving process by delaying when Mr. Pellerin can be put to rest.

We are deeply disturbed by the brazen violence perpetrated against Mr. Pellerin. This incident unmistakably demonstrates a lack of proper training on or utilization of de-escalation tactics and restraint by the Lafayette Police Department. Moreover, the story that the mayor continues to attempt to paint in the press is inconsistent with the truth found in this independent autopsy. We demand accountability for the officers that so audaciously took the life of Trayford Pellerin, transparency from all investigating agencies, and that justice be served.

Yours in Justice,

Ronald Haley
Ben Crump
Dedrick A. Moore
Christopher Murell