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Re: The Farmington Police Department's murder (killing with no lawful justification) of Robbie Dotson on April 5, 2023, in the middle of the night.

To whom it may concern:

Kim Dotson and the entire Dotson family are outraged by the incendiary, inflammatory, and wholly inaccurate version of events portrayed by the Farmington Police Department in their public statement issued on April 21, 2023. First, the Farmington Police Department ("FPD") callously murdered Robbie Dotson without excuse or justification. Now, adding insult to a horrific and traumatic psychological and emotional injury, the FPD released a ridiculously false narrative intended and designed to shift focus away from the murderous actions of the officers and to blame Robbie. The FPD's false narrative easily is debunked and disproved simply by reviewing the body camera footage and Ring camera footage. In fact, Farmington Police Chief Steve Hebbe, the final say on the matter, absolved Robbie of any wrongdoing when he proclaimed on "Newsnationnow" with Dan Abrams on April 17, 2023 that *Robbie did nothing wrong at all in the entire matter*. To repeat, the police chief himself, when interviewed on national television, contradicted the FPD's public statement of April 21, 2023.

(<https://www.newsnationnow.com/danabramslive/tragic-chief-on-police-going-to-wrong-home-killing-man/>)

Undaunted, the attorneys for the Officers have now released a statement which is *directly contrary to their own police chief*.

As a result of the FPD's desire to avoid accountability and reflect any measurable amount of integrity, on behalf of Robbie and Kim Dotson and the entire Dotson Family, we are releasing a statement about this matter. We intend to ensure the public record is accurate as to Robbie's murder.

The video evidence is irrefutable. While the FPD has intentionally chosen to weave together a misleading version of undisputed facts, and then engage in the most morbid of "gaslighting," we prefer to simply restate the undisputed facts. Here is exactly what the video evidence shows:

The officers were parked in a quiet, dark, residential neighborhood on a weeknight, at almost midnight. To every home in the neighborhood that did not call the police, they were assuredly quietly enjoying their midnight peace. Dispatch advised the officers to 5308 and sent a photo of the house at 5308 along with a map of the neighborhood, which showed where in the neighborhood 5308 was. All of the officers viewed that map, showing what the house looked like and where it was located in the neighborhood. Officer Goodluck then said, “It’s the third house on the left.” They then closed the laptop and walked up to the third house on the right. They all walked past the well-lit numbers reading 5305. They then walked up to 5305. They knocked on the door in a normal manner, assuming that this was the house that had called the police, thus there was no need to bang loudly. Their announcement was not loud. This occurred again, almost a minute later. No movement, no sound, nothing from inside the house. The officer then asked dispatch to call the house to talk with the residents—no phone is heard ringing; no sound is heard at all. The officer knocks again. At that point, Officer Goodluck states that they are supposed to be at 5308. Officer Wasson states “isn’t that what that says there?” as he points to the house numbers about 10 feet back from him.

At this point, they had heard the address 5308 from dispatch, saw the neighborhood, saw a picture of the house at 5308 on the Mobile Data Computer (MDC), and had seen close up the house numbers of 5305 that the homeowner prominently displayed with strong illumination. All of this is from the body camera footage and is indisputable.

When Officer Goodluck replies that the numbers show 5305, Officer Wasson then asks dispatch for the correct place they are supposed to be. This defies common sense. How does that help the officers? They know where they are *supposed to be*, he just supposedly doesn’t know where *he is at*. Yet his location is very easily found: 3 steps backward to read the house numbers. He doesn’t do that. Instead, he asks dispatch to advise where he is *supposed to be*. But he already knows that. Immediately, dispatch replies 5308.

At this point, he has not been told by dispatch where he is at. He has not looked at the prominent house numbers just 3 steps away. Yet, he knows he is at 5305 now. This is obvious because he laughs with the others and states to Officer Goodluck “You should have told me I was wrong Dylan.”

Wasson and all of the Officers knew they were at 5305 when Wasson called dispatch. This is proven by the tape because nothing occurred other than dispatch repeating to them that 5308 was their call. Yet right then-- when they hear from dispatch-- they laugh and know they were at the wrong house; thus, they knew they were at 5305 when they called dispatch.

Officer Wasson stays there on the porch area. He stares at the door. No sound is heard at all, just like before. Then he hears what everyone else hears: Not the “racking” of a gun; rather, the unlocking of a door. At midnight on a weeknight, of course the door will be locked. When he hears the door being unlocked—as if he is completely unprepared for that occurrence—he yells “shit!” and begins to panic. So do the other officers.

The videos next show that Wasson is reaching for his gun (solely because the door is being opened) and the other officers activate their strong blinding flashlights.

Let's be clear on what we must all agree on at this point: the homeowner was not opening his door as the officers "were in the process of verifying the address." That is a false statement that the FPD intentionally crafts in an attempt to mislead. The homeowner was clearly still upstairs and likely asleep when they had known conclusively, they were at 5305, the wrong house. Further intentionally misleading statements like this from the FPD in a murder case only serve to weaken their credibility.

When the door is being opened by Robbie, "hey" and "heads" are being screamed simultaneously with the blinding flashlights at him. There is no announcement of "POLICE" despite more than ample time. And that is obviously crucial. Wrong address. Late at night. The Dotson's never called the police. "Shit" is heard through the door by the homeowner. The next words should be "POLICE POLICE POLICE" and not "hey" and "heads." A freeze frame of the tape shows Robbie holding the gun, and not pointing it at the officers. Rather, the gun is clearly pointed down at the ground when Robbie hears "hey!" and "heads!" from multiple voices from multiple locations in a blinding whiteout from the officers' flashlights. The decision to shoot and kill has already been made by the officers.

All of the foregoing is directly from the videotapes.

Girl Scouts and grammar school children selling cookies and candy door to door would have handled the interaction better than the officers did here.

As we see conclusively later in the tape, there appears to be an aversion to advising an armed citizen that the officers are the police. The officers never identified themselves as law enforcement at crucial moments in this assassination. Equally important, the officers were trespassing and breaking the law when they entered onto the Dotson property. After brutally killing Robbie, Kim Dotson responded in defense of herself and her children without any knowledge or information law enforcement officers were outside of her residence. She then exchanged gunfire with the officers, after finding her husband shot in their doorway. The officers shouted commands of “don’t do it, don’t do it” and “hands up hands up.” Then, when she was advised that they were the police, she set the gun down.

The facts are not in dispute. After calling for murder charges to be filed against the officers, the FPD then engaged in the all too familiar tactic in law enforcement shooting cases: back the badge no matter the circumstances by issuing an outrageous statement with outright lies and untruths.

The Farmington Police Department themselves are lying about the facts, facts which are on tape and not capable of dispute. Every Farmington, New Mexico citizen should be deeply concerned about being murdered in their own home by the Farmington Police Department.

The facts of this crime committed by the officers will not go away and neither will the community and the family’s joint pursuit of Justice for Robbie.

Sincerely,

Mark Reichel
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Attorneys for the Family and Estate of Robert
Dotson