

Chapter 8

Dontre Hamilton



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Who were the actors involved?

- The Starbucks employees
- Officers Fuerte and Fitchett
- Officer Christopher Manney
- 31-year-old schizophrenic Black man, Dontre Hamilton
- Sixteen witnesses at Red Arrow Park
- Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn

(Barton and Luthern, 2017)



(Barton and Luthern, 2017)

What happened?



(Travel Wisconsin, 2020)



(IMDB, 2020)

- Beat officer Christopher Manney received a voicemail directing him to seek out a man sleeping in Red Arrow Park
- Manney approached Dontre Hamilton, who had already been checked on twice prior that day by other officers, Fuerte and Fitchett

(BBC, 2014)

What happened?

- Manney performed an "out-of-policy" pat-down of Hamilton, which turned into a scuffle
- Hamilton gained control of Manney's baton and began to beat Officer Manney
- Officer Manney then shot the 31-year-old schizophrenic twice, knocking Hamilton down
- Manney proceeded to shoot Hamilton another twelve times, after he was already maimed

(Barton and Luthern, 2017 & FBI, 2015)



(CBS58, 2014)

Where Did This Event Happen?

- This event happened at Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI
- The autopsy was done at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office
- The hearing was conducted at the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court, Branch 1

(Case/Report NO. 14- 2252-25)

When Did The Event Occur?

- This event occurred on Wednesday April 30, 2014
- Officer Christopher Manney responded to Red Arrow at 3:28pm
- Manney called in to report the shootings at 3:32pm
- The autopsy of Dontre Hamilton was conducted on Thursday May 1, 2014
- Manney was fired from the police department on Wednesday October 15, 2014
- The court hearing was held on Thursday March 19, 2015, from 4:30pm until 9:00pm (Steckling, 2015)

Why Did The Event Occur?

- Miscommunication between law enforcement actors
 - Department failed to properly inform Manney of the situation
 - Two previous contacts made by other officers was not explained to Manney
- Use of excessive force on a mentally ill individual
 - Did not comply with department protocol for handling a mental health crisis
 - Unnecessary frisk performed on Dontre Hamilton, there was no cause to perform the frisk

The Results: The Family

- Erik Ljung started filming the family and the case to then release a documentary on the incident called *The Blood is at the Doorstep*
 - This was made in hopes to show that you can celebrate what was without forgetting what had happened
- The family then went on to create many organizations to help those in need
 - His brother Nate founded Coalition for Justice
 - His Mother Maria founded Million Moms March which is a walk to protest police violence

(Rogan, 2018)

The Results: The Department

- Governor Scott Walker signed the Michael Bell law which required an outside agency to investigate a shooting if a law enforcement officer is involved with a death, so Dontre Hamilton's case was investigated by Wisconsin Division of Criminal **Investigation**
- Protests broke out chanting "No justice. No compromise"
 - These protests turned to riots with more than 70 people arrested
- Police Chief Flynn fired officer Manny due to not following the department's laws on searching a person with a mental disorder rather than excessive use of force
- Hamilton's death caused the Milwaukee Police Department to begin equipping the officers with body cameras

(Hess, 2015)

The Results: The Overall Impacts

- Dontre Day
 - Hamilton's family organizes a memorial for his death at Red Arrow Park every year around April to commemorate him and to "come together as a city to move on" (Nate Hamilton)
- Mental Awareness became more prominent in social media as well as around the community
- The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force has requested that officers complete a 40-hour training program to receive Crisis Intervention Team certification

(Casey, 2018)

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Dontre Day Video



(TMJ4 News, 2017)

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