



RAWSI WILLIAMS LAW GROUP

701 Brickell Avenue
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Miami FL 33131

Principal: Raws Williams, Esq., R.N.
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888-[RAWSILAW](tel:888-729-7452) (888-729-7452)

April 4, 2022

To: City of Miami
C/O Honorable Francis Suarez, Mayor
C/O Mr. Arthur Noriega, City Manager
C/O Ms. Victoria Mendez, City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
444 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Suite 945
Miami, FL 33130

To: Manuel A. Morales, Chief of Police
City of Miami Police Department
400 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33128

To: Constant Rosemond, Sergeant
City of Miami Police Department
400 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33128

and

To: Florida Department of Financial Services
Office of Legal Counsel
200 E. Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Pre-Suit Notice for the Wrongful Killing/Fatal Shooting of Mr. Antwon Leonard Cooper on March 8, 2022, by Miami Police, and Demand for Insurance Information

VIA PROCESS SERVER



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Dear Madam/Sirs:

Please accept this notice of claim pursuant to Section 768.28(6), Florida Statutes, submitted on behalf of our clients Personal Representative Ms. Talisha Cooper, parents of decedent Mr. Antwon Cooper (Ms. Tilasha Cooper and Mr. Gerald L. Adams), and Estate of Mr. Antwon Leonard Cooper, wherein he was wrongfully killed via fatal shooting in the head on March 8, 2022, by Miami police. As required by the statutory provision, Mr. Cooper was born [REDACTED], in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and his Social Security number is [REDACTED]. There are no known prior adjudicated penalties, fines, fees, victim restitution fund, or other judgments owed by Mr. Cooper to the State or its agencies or subdivisions.

These claims arise out of, *inter alia*, 14th Amendment Equal Protection and 4th Amendment excessive force (via *42 U.S.C. 1983* as the enabling statute), and violation of state laws for the wrongful and unlawful killing and use of excessive force against unarmed African-American male Mr. Antwon L. Cooper by Miami police on March 8, 2022, in violation of Mr. Cooper's constitutional, state, and federal rights, intentionally without cause or legal provocation and without regard for human life, at the least.

On March 8, 2022, after a traffic stop initiated by another police officer at the stop sign adjacent/next to *Miami Northwestern Senior High School* located at 1100 NW 71st St, Miami, FL, 33150, the on-duty Sergeant drove onto the scene of that traffic stop and without cause or legal provocation killed Mr. Cooper by shooting him in the head. He shot him in the head at close range. That Sergeant was not wearing bodycam at the time of killing Mr. Cooper, but the officer who initiated the traffic stop under our investigation was wearing bodycam, and other nearby footage also shows the actions of the Sergeant from the time of his arrival wherein no other officers were present except the officer who initiated the traffic stop. Mr. Cooper was unarmed when the Sergeant killed him, and as the footage clearly shows, was only trying to pull away from the other Officer's grasp. Mr. Cooper didn't make it far because the officer who initiated the traffic stop was able to grab him. As the footage also clearly shows, at no time did Mr. Cooper pull or brandish a gun during this entire encounter, including not at the Officer who initiated the traffic stop or the Sergeant who shot him in the head and killed him. After the Sergeant shot Mr. Cooper, the officer who initiated the traffic stop called out "*shots fired*," and other responders to the scene administered aid, albeit too late because the Miami PD Sergeant had already killed him. Mr. Cooper was pronounced dead on the scene.

Throughout this encounter, Miami PD has continuously put out misleading if not false information, ever changing the location of the "*gun on the scene*" picture they keep showing in the media, from the gun was seen "*inside the car*" despite Mr. Cooper being outside the car when the Sergeant shot and killed him, to "*found on the scene*" without giving the actual physical location on the scene,

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to “one of the officers became aware [Mr. Cooper] was armed” despite the evidence and footage clearly showing that never occurred. On last Friday, April 1, 2022, Miami PD released the officer’s bodycam footage of the encounter, and even the media’s on-air break down of the footage showed that Mr. Cooper did *not* have a gun nor brandish any weapon during this encounter. (<https://www.local10.com/news/local/2022/04/01/video-shows-when-miami-officer-fatally-shot-man/>). They’ve also raised Mr. Cooper’s prior criminal history, but the truth is neither the Officer initiating the traffic stop nor the Sergeant knew Mr. Cooper’s identity at the time of the Sergeant killing him because as the footage clearly shows, Mr. Cooper didn’t have his license and the Officer never ran the registration before the Sergeant shot and killed Mr. Cooper.

Yet regardless of the red herring and misleading distractions put out by police to cover this unjustified shooting, and even if the gun on the scene actually found/located several feet away from the actual location where the Sergeant shot and killed Mr. Cooper is identified to belong to Mr. Cooper, the fact remains true that no gun or any weapon was in Mr. Cooper’s possession nor hands when the Sergeant shot him in the head at close range and killed him, and Mr. Cooper never drew a gun or brandished a gun at any officer during this encounter; nor kicked, hit, punched, or pummeled an officer in this encounter. As the evidence clearly shows, Mr. Cooper was just trying to run away when the Sergeant shot him in the head. The Miami PD Sergeant wrongfully and unlawfully killed Mr. Cooper on the afternoon of March 8, 2022, in Miami, FL. Accordingly, this family during their time of overwhelming grief has had to do news interviews to combat the misleading information put out by Miami PD to the public.

And to add insult to the injury of wrongful and unlawful death, per information provided by Law Enforcement in this investigation, this Sergeant did not even render aid after shooting Mr. Cooper in the head like a dog in the street, despite remaining on the scene of this previously non-lethal traffic stop prior to his arrival.

As a result of this wrongful and unlawful killing and application of excessive force by Miami PD, Mr. Antwon Cooper is dead.

He will never return again. His parents and grandparents will never see him walk this earth again.

He will never get to marry and have children. His parents and grandparents will never see a “Lil Twon” or “Antwon, Jr.”

His entire life lived and future life awaiting has been snuffed out by Miami PD. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, he is gone. And if that wasn’t enough, the funeral home to insert wires and devices inside his head to hold his together for his funeral.

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The family of Antwon L. Cooper suffered the loss of his life and continues to gravely suffer mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially due to the actions of Miami PD against him.

Liability in this matter is clear and the damages are overwhelmingly significant. Should you choose to deny this claim, please promptly inform the undersigned so that we may properly and vigorously pursue our claim in Federal Court on behalf of Mr. Antwon Cooper's family and the Estate of Antwon Cooper.

Pursuant to §627.4137, Florida Statutes, we request you provide the following information within 30 days from today:

- (1) a statement, under oath, of a corporate officer or the insurer's claims manager or superintendent setting forth the following information with regard to each known policy of insurance, including excess or umbrella insurance:
 - (a) The name of the insurer.
 - (b) The name of each insured.
 - (c) The limits of the liability coverage.
 - (d) A statement of any policy or coverage defense which such insurer reasonably believes is available to such insurer at the time of filing such statement.
 - (e) A copy of the policy.

Sincerely,

Raws Williams, Esq., R.N.
Counsel
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