

Marvin Booker Was Murdered

A Documentary in Five Acts.

Memphis Premiere Saturday February 4, 2017, Doors open at 6pm. Seating at 6:30. Film starts at 7pm. Q&A w/ the Booker Family, their attorneys, Memphis residents in the film, and filmmakers after the screening.

The screening takes place at the Clayborn Temple. The theater is located at 294 Hernando St Memphis, 38126.

Tickets only \$10. Proceeds go directly towards supporting the film:

Direct Link to Eventbrite: <https://goo.gl/RCMXu1>

The filmmakers are proud to present a documentary film that takes an in-depth look at how the continued killing of unarmed black men by law enforcement is one of the largest Civil Rights issues facing our country.

The Screening is being presented in part by the Clayborn Temple, and the Memphis Bar Association.

For Immediate Release:

Contact Wade Gardner at 303-921-9444

Or, at wadegardner13@gmail.com

“Because if you don’t say something, it’ll be you next time”.

Rev. B.R. Booker, calling out to the community on the steps of the Denver Downtown Detention Center after his son Marvin Booker was murdered, and the city of Denver refused to release timely information about his death.

If you thought the Civil Rights era was over, think again.

Before Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Sandra Bland, there was Marvin Booker.

On July 9, 2010, Memphian Marvin Booker, a homeless street preacher was beaten to death by five Denver Sheriff’s Deputies because he simply wanted to get his shoes. His death at the Downtown Denver Detention Center was captured on videotape, and witnessed by more than 30 people waiting to be processed into the jail. After the incident, the city of Denver took more than nine months to release the video, and the details surrounding his death. Incredibly, none of the five Denver Sheriff’s at the time, Sgt. Carrie Rodriguez, along with deputies James Grimes, Faun Gomez, Kyle Sharp, and Kenneth Robinette were neither indicted, nor reprimanded for the murder of Marvin Booker.

According to Denver native Wade Gardner, making his directorial debut with the project, "This explosive film reveals how Denver City Administrators then continued to delay, deny, and discourage the Memphis based Booker family from suing those responsible for his death." In September 2014, after four years of struggle, the Booker family finally had their day in court after they pursued their civil rights lawsuit against the City, and the five deputies for excessive force.

This investigative feature length documentary focuses on the events surrounding Marvin's death through the recollection of the Memphis based Booker family, their two Denver civil rights attorneys Darold Killmer, and Mari Newman, and prominent members of Denver's clergy. The Booker family have been a fixture in Memphis for decades. Their father, B.R. Booker was a Memphian and a presiding elder with the A.M.E church. The family has two sons who are ministers. The Rev. Spencer Booker is an A.M.E. pastor in St. Louis. His brother Calvin Booker, is the pastor at the Cathedral of Faith in Memphis. There are many Memphians who are also in the film.

Additionally the film hears directly from Sr. Deputy DA Lamar Sims - who conducted the criminal investigation of the deputies. Director of the Office of Safety, Stephanie O'Malley, who still refuses to comment on the case, or even apologize to the Booker family. And, attorney Thomas Rice, who represented the City and the five deputies, and who still believes, according to Gardner that the deputies, "Only did what they were trained to do".

Gardner states, "The story about Marvin Booker, though local in nature, is universal in how law enforcement continues to kill unarmed black men. The film also shows, how a City chose to demonize the victim, instead of holding those responsible, accountable." Gardner also believes, "It's time to take the gloves off. Our film will prove, through the use of the City's own videotape of its investigation of the five deputies - who were neither indicted, nor reprimanded - how the so-called Internal Affairs investigations were a sham." Most revealing, he continues, "Is that by our recounting of the civil rights trial from the perspective of both legal parties involved, that the movie also reveals how law enforcement, and City Administrators, chose to protect The Thin Blue Line, instead of the Constitutional rights of Marvin Booker." The director of the film, "Is wagering that what happened to Marvin, has happened, and will continue to happen, to other families affected by the use of excessive force by law enforcement. It is my hope, that the film will shed a much needed spotlight so that other families, communities, and Administrations learn how to react once a tragedy like Marvin's death, and its aftermath, takes place in their city or town. "It is my desire to have the story change minds and behaviors, as it relates to the unconstitutional use of excessive force by law enforcement", Gardner concludes.

