

## **2017 Examples of Needless Death by Taser**

(Compiled by Tom Meyer, Erin Katayama, and David Rizk of the Taser Subcommittee of the S.F. Bar Association's Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform)

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### **Rohnert Park Man in his 40's dies after being Tasered by officer who was said to have found him "babbling incoherently about being poisoned by chemicals."**

According to the officer, the man "became combative and resisted attempts to arrest him." If so, this appears to be a flagrant example of using a Taser to force compliance rather than to stop a threat.<sup>i</sup>

*San Francisco Chronicle*, May 13, 2017, by Vivian Ho

### **Forty-nine year old Bronx Man who was holding a bottle of hot sauce at his family home Tasered and killed by police after a neighbor mistakenly thought he was an emotionally disturbed person with a knife.**

The lady who called the police later told the deceased's sister that she couldn't see well and she was sorry, she had made a mistake, a huge mistake. The decedent's sister stated that she later learned that her brother had surrendered to the cops on his knees before being Tasered.<sup>ii</sup>

*New York Daily News*, Jan. 31, 2017, by Christina Carrega

### **Forty-four year old man, Sabin Marcus Jones, with Schizophrenia, Dies in Richmond, Virginia, After Being Tased Three Times.**

The mother of the decedent signed an emergency custody order for law enforcement to transport him to the hospital on January 20, 2017, after she said he had not taken his medication for about a month. "He started going off," she said, "was seeing things and became very agitated" although "he'd never hurt anyone." She said at least one responding officer on the scene was familiar with Jones, since he had dealt with his condition previously, and that local police have also taken her son to the hospital previously.<sup>iii</sup>

NBC 12, January 25, 2017, by Kelly Avellino

### **57 Year old St. Louis County Man Dies after being Tasered by Police.**

Officers were called to the home of a family member of 57-year-old Tereance Klein who may have been under the influence of drugs. The family member barricaded Klein in the basement after he started hitting himself in the head with a frying pan. When the officers tried to restrain Klein, they say he resisted, so they used a Taser. ... He was handcuffed and Tased by police, and found not to be breathing and pronounced dead at the scene.<sup>iv</sup>

KMOX/CBS, Jan. 24, 2017, by Michael Thomas

### **Man Who Needed Medical Attention Dead after Tasered by a police officer in East Perth on Friday, Jan. 21st.**

Police were responding to a robbery in Lord Street around 11.35am, when officers came across a man that needed medical attention. As officers helped the man he became aggressive and a police officer was injured. An officer then allegedly Tasered the man who became unresponsive and died a short time later.

Mr. Riley, from Coodanup, was a father-of-six who had a heart condition and had been in hospital just before the incident.<sup>v</sup>

The Sydney Morning Herald, May 12, 2017, by Brand Foster

### **Indiana State police investigate death of intoxicated man shot with Taser**

Indiana State Police are investigating the death of a 48-year-old Indianapolis man after an officer shot him with a Taser.

In a news release, state police say two Greenfield police officers responded to a call of an intoxicated man lying in the grass around 6:30 p.m. Friday. They say Douglas A. Wiggington became combative after officers arrived. An officer shot him with a Taser and then "immediately noticed" Wiggington was having health problems. Wiggington was later pronounced dead at Hancock Regional Hospital.<sup>vi</sup>

Associated Press, May 13, 2017

### **55-year old Philadelphia man, who police suspected might have overdosed on drugs, died on January 19, 2017 after police Tased him.**

Police Commissioner Richard Ross said an officer fired the Taser because the man grabbed a female officer by her hair and neck while she was in a patrol car. Another officer fired a taser at the man to stop the struggle, Ross said. After the man collapsed, an officer, believing he man might have overdosed on drugs, administered Naxolene which is often used as an antidote to heroin.<sup>vii</sup>

Real Time, January 19, 2017 by Chris Palmer

## Links to Articles

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/Man-dies-in-Rohnert-Park-after-being-shot-with-11143943.php>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/bronx/family-bronx-man-died-nypd-taser-files-10m-lawsuit-article-1.2960158>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.nbc12.com/story/34345766/va-man-with-schizophrenia-dies-after-getting-tased-by-law-enforcement>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2017/01/24/57-year-old-man-dies-tased-by-police/>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/wa-news/man-tasered-by-police-in-east-perth-has-died-20170512-gw3u7j.html>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/indiana/articles/2017-05-13/state-police-investigate-death-of-man-shot-with-taser>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://philly.com/philly/blogs/real-time>