



## **POLICING THE RALEIGH POLICE: TWO YEARS AFTER GEORGE FLOYD**





## EMANCIPATE NC DEMANDS REAL CHANGES IN POLICING

Media narratives about policing in Raleigh depend heavily on the expertise of Emancipate NC staff.

Indyweek's June 1 piece, "[Two Years After Protests, Activists See Little Progress on Raleigh Police Reform](#)," centers Emancipate NC: the vocal advocacy of Dawn Blagrove and Kerwin Pittman and the litigation efforts of Ian Mance and Elizabeth Simpson.

Just one week after this piece was published, Raleigh Police Department agreed to a material concession.

“

That officer still has a job, even though it is clear he violated Nyee'ya's rights, that he lied about what actually happened. After the investigation, he still has a job. That's problematic.

- Dawn Blagrove

”



“

Once you create a culture where I can come and beat up on you and there's no ramifications for my actions, guess what we're gonna keep doing? More and more people are going to keep beating up on you because there's no ramifications. It's about accountability.

- Kerwin Pittman

”

“

It starts with the department here really saying, 'Let's look at our training manuals, let's look at our policies, and let's [change] it in a way that ... value[s] life. [Where] we don't take it at the first instance that we feel like we have justification in the eyes of the law.

- Kerwin Pittman

”





# EMANCIPATE NC IS INTEGRAL TO THE POST-GEORGE FLOYD MOVEMENT TO TRANSFORM POLICING IN OUR STATE CAPITAL



Dawn and Kerwin were in the streets in 2020, participating in protests, educating communities, supporting families, and providing moral and rhetorical leadership.

They continue to work on the ground to provide support to protesters and communities.



# DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST & FREEING OUR PEOPLE

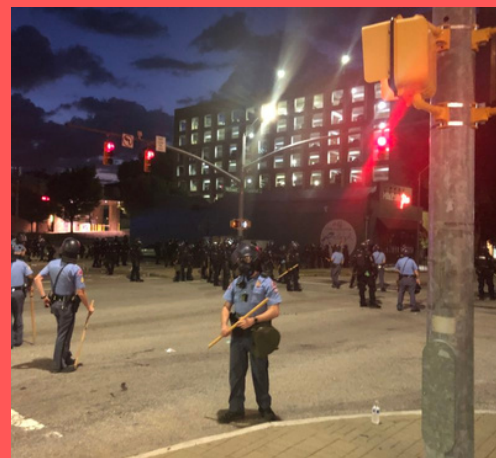


Meanwhile, to support street protest, Elizabeth Simpson and Amelia O'Rourke-Owens coordinated with Legal Observers and administered the Freedom Fighter Bond Fund.

We freed dozens of protesters.

We also organized the Protest Defense Network, a group of criminal attorneys trained to provide strategically-aligned defense for protesters.

We defended over 130 protesters from 2020 to date.



# SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER IN THE HALLS OF GOVERNMENT



Dawn, Kerwin, and our Justice League team maintain a steady presence in the halls of power.

Kerwin Pittman gave powerful testimony at the General Assembly on H.B. 805, the anti-political protest bill that would create felony penalties for activities deemed to be “riots” and any “assault” on emergency personnel, even without physical injury.

# ELEVATING IMPACTED VOICES ON THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON RACIAL EQUITY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Summer 2020, Kerwin was appointed the justice-impacted representative for the Governor's Task Force on Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.

September 2021, Task Force recommendations resulted in the passage of SB 300.

Kerwin joined the Governor at the signing ceremony.

## The new law:

- Promotes recruitment of officers with diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Requires early intervention to identify and correct officers who use excessive force
- Furthers independent investigations of police-involved shootings
- Limits local laws that criminalize poverty
- Requires first appearance in court within 72 hours of an arrest



**EMANCIPATE NC  
REPORT THE POLICE  
BLACK LIVES MATTER  
EMANCIPATE NC**

## **WE KEEP US SAFE: REPORTING THE POLICE**

In critical instances of police misconduct in Raleigh, Dawn and Kerwin are on the ground supporting family members through the trauma, advocating for release of body camera footage, and demanding accountability.

**Emancipate NC is known and trusted by  
members of the community.**

Emancipate NC often receives the first word of new incidents by direct messages on social media and our **Police Misconduct Database**, where people report police encounters, upload photos/videos, and can share this information with national police misconduct databases.



# USING THE POWER OF STORY TO HOLD POLICE ACCOUNTABLE

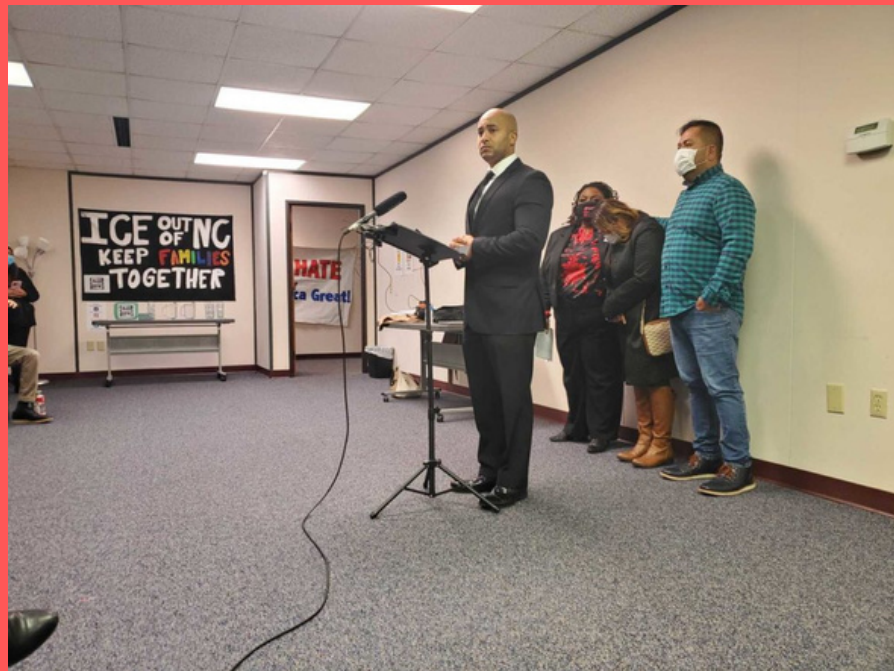
In January 2022, the Raleigh police first reported that Daniel Turcios was intoxicated and wielding a knife, leading to media coverage suggesting the police shooting was justified.



# BUT FOR OUR ADVOCACY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN YET ANOTHER "JUSTIFIED SHOOTING."

Dawn and Kerwin met with the Turcios family and gathered witness information and videos. We then held a press conference, and the story shifted.

Thanks to our strategic narrative intervention, the public learned that Mr. Turcios was not intoxicated, had a small pocket knife, and did not pose a deadly threat.



# RALEIGH POLICE CONCEDE NEED FOR DE-ESCALATION



On June 8, 2022, on the heels of Emancipate NC petitioning for release of body camera footage of the police shooting of Reuel Rodriguez-Nunez, **Raleigh Police admitted they need a De-Escalation Policy.**

The police adopted Kerwin Pittman's language, calling on police to protect the "sanctity of life," in announcing a listening tour to gather community input to inform their first De-Escalation Policy.

# EMANCIPATE NC SUES RALEIGH POLICE FOR UNJUST PRACTICES



Elizabeth and Ian are actively litigating against the Raleigh Police for their practice of poor supervision of officers and their aggressive and unjustified "No Knock" warrants.

Emancipate NC's federal litigation seeks concrete policy changes: specifically, we seek to curb the abuse of "No Knock" warrants.

This litigation will be a vehicle to achieve a win for criminal justice reform.



## **OUR THREE INTERLOCKING STRATEGIES - EDUCATION, NARRATIVE SHIFT, AND LITIGATION - GO HAND-IN-HAND.**

We have shifted the media narrative on policing in the capital of North Carolina - and beyond.

We have provided infrastructure and defense to protesters calling for transformative change.

We have supported grieving families in gaining transparency into police violence.

We have contributed to landmark state law change.

We have compelled Raleigh Police to pay monetary damages to a teenage protester.

We have won concession from Raleigh Police that they need De-Escalation tools.

**The road is long, but with your support, we will win.**



# EMANCIPATE NC 2022 CORE TEAM

Dawn Blagrove, Executive Director

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Sean Bates

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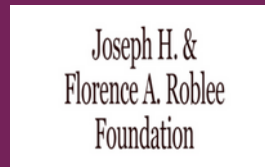
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AND OVER 4,000  
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THANK YOU TO OUR  
FUNDERS!

“

Emancipate combines the best of community organizing with community lawyering to build power in Black and Brown communities and to hold systems accountable.

- CHHANDASI  
PANDYA PATEL,  
HEISING-SIMONS  
FOUNDATION

”



“

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is honored to support Emancipate NC in the fight for racial justice and equity for all citizens in all communities across our state.

”

- MAURICE “MO”  
GREEN, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, Z. SMITH  
REYNOLDS  
FOUNDATION



“

The Movement Voter Project is excited to partner with Emancipate NC to educate voters most impacted by over-policing and over-incarceration to demand criminal legal transformation from their elected officials.

”

- JILLIAN JOHNSON,  
MOVEMENT  
VOTER  
PROJECT



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