

Black Man Files Lawsuit Against Missouri Police Over 2018 Shooting

Special to The Black Star News



Trey Cockrell

Trey Cockrell (above) and his attorney Jaime Santana (author of upcoming “When Bad Cops Happen to Good People”) filed a Federal Civil Rights Lawsuit in Missouri Wednesday.

In Nov. 2018 Mr. Cockrell, an African American, was the passenger in his girlfriend’s car. Police pulled them over, officers went each side of car got their IDs and were checking them out.

Trey left the car and ran into the adjacent

woods. Police, including one with a history of complaints, take chase.

Time recordings have the officer, with a history of complaints, radioing “Shots Fired” within one minute. No one heard them. Within 2 minutes multiple agencies were on site in response to that call.

Although no one saw Mr. Cockrell with a gun, the officers converged upon him and 3 or 4 started shooting. Two or three of them have a history of complaints.

Mr. Cockrell was shot 8 times and remains partially disabled.

Doug Schaeffler, former Richmond Heights Police Chief

The Complaint alleges, among other things, misconduct by several officers, both the shooters and those who failed to stop them, and their superiors and employers for failing to properly train the officers as well as for allowing officers with history to continue their misconduct.

Jeffrey DeVorss, Clayton sergeant

Kevin Murphy, former Clayton Police Chief

Jon Belmar, former St. Louis County Police Chief

A list of the police defendants agencies and municipalities named in the federal lawsuit are listed below.

Timothy Fitch, former St. Louis County Police Chief

List of Defendants

The City of Brentwood

Joshua Bowersox, Brentwood police officer

Chris Thorton, Brentwood mayor

Nicolas Stanze, Brentwood police officer

The City of Richmond Heights

Major Craig Mueller, Brentwood police officer

Jim Thompson, Richmond Heights mayor

Joseph Spiess, Brentwood Police

The City of Clayton

Chief Matt Karl, Richmond Heights police officer

Harold Sangler, Clayton mayor

Jeffrey Dulaney, Richmond Heights police officer

The Saint Louis County Police Department

Saint Louis County Police Academy(s)

Officer Vargas, Richmond Heights police officer

Saint Louis County

The case is being handled by the Santana Law Partners firm. ■