

John Crawford III Law (Police Accountability for Wrongful Use of Deadly Force)

On August 5th, 2014, John Crawford III, age 22 was wrongfully shot and killed by police while shopping inside a Beavercreek Walmart. Mr. Crawford had picked up a bb air rifle while shopping inside the store. Mr. Crawford was engaged in a phone call with the bb air rifle in hand, and a customer, Ronald Ritchie called 911 and grossly fabricating his account of a man with a gun pointing it at other customers. Moments later, police entered the store and without any efforts to properly assess the situation, remove customers or wait for adequate reinforcement, they rushed inside and on sight of Mr. Crawford, Officer Sean Williams shot and killed him in less than a second.

Mr. John Crawford III, who was someone's son, father and an American citizen was killed while shopping at his local Walmart. Nothing was out of order about Mr. Crawford holding a bb air rifle that he was considering for purchase, unless we are to believe that without any evidence of a violent act, a young black man with a gun is an automatic threat. Mr. Crawford was further denied justice when a grand jury chose not to indict Officer Williams despite his careless and wrongful use of deadly force against an innocent man on September 22, 2014.

Therefore, the Crawford Family, Cincinnati and Dayton NAACP, and many other organizations support and implore the adoption of the John Crawford III Law to address incidents of wrongful use of deadly force by law enforcement to provide accountability and justice for citizens who suffered the ultimate consequence for another's misperception.

WHEREAS, states that have Open Carry Laws should have a **mandatory** protocol on standards of approach by law enforcement so that citizens with a legal and or non-lethal (ie. toy) gun are not gunned down at the sight of a perceived weapon.

WHEREAS, law enforcement use of deadly force should always be the last resort; being their primary roles are to serve and protect and bring the accused to justice, not to become Judge, Jury and Executioner. The use of deadly force is currently excusable by one's perception of a threat instead of tangible evidence of a threat; and

WHEREAS, the lack of legal accountability towards law enforcement officers who either negligently or intentionally kill an unarmed and/or innocent citizen is creating an unhealthy mutual fear that is damaging the relationship between police and communities; and

WHEREAS, a judicial system that can be corrupt and biased thus affording law enforcement officers broad discretion in determining what is reasonable presumption of fear, which has led to many non-indictments and exonerations for police officers, while families are left helpless and without justice; and

WHEREAS, law Enforcement Agencies that perform more training hours in Firearm Training than in De-escalation Training are contributing to a police culture that is more volatile than tactful, which can lead to

increased instances of the wrongful use of deadly force under false pretenses of an impending threat than an actual threat; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the John Crawford III Law will enforce a **mandatory** protocol on standards of approach. To ensure the safety of citizens and law enforcement officers. A uniformed standard of approach that requires officers to do their due diligence and assess the situation before engaging a perceived threat, because possessing a toy or legal gun should not be a death threat; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the John Crawford III Law will eliminate ambiguous language in the law that allows law enforcement to use deadly force under the broadly interpreted “*reasonable presumption of fear of a threat*” and support a nationwide standard that supports the preservation of life and bring the accused to justice, by raising accountability by reducing the use of deadly force to **incidents of absolute threats**; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the John Crawford III Law will require **mandatory** drug testing of all in law enforcement who discharged their fire arms to ensure the mental discernment of the officer(s) was not compromised or under the influence of any illegal substances.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the John Crawford III Law will enforce **mandatory** de-escalation training for all law enforcement agencies with the requirement that de-escalation training hours be equivalent or more than firearm training.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the John Crawford III Law will enforce on all law enforcement officers, who are paid by tax payer's dollars, a **mandatory** termination and a permanent ban from any position in law enforcement if they are found to have violated the rights of any citizen, or who have used deadly force where evidence proves there was no impending threat.

Definition of Incidents of Absolute threats:

- I. Visibly approaching an officer or citizen in a violent or threatening manner
- II. Threatening an officer with a deadly weapon
- III. Deployment of bullets
- IV. Victim(s) Bystander(s) injured by suspect