

Note to a UAB student filmmaker in response to her question about why we started White Birminghamians for Black Lives when we did:

Amber —

It was just that Terence Crutcher, who was shot and killed in Tulsa on September 16, 2016, and Keith Lamont Scott, who was shot and killed four days later in Charlotte, represented the whole long series of police shootings of unarmed black men and the fact that the number seemed to be escalating. Each time one happened it felt like there should be some way to publicly, visibly, object and to let it be known that one found these killings abhorrent and unacceptable.

Trayvon Martin had been killed by George Zimmerman in July of 2013, and Zimmerman was acquitted. Eric Garner was choked to death by police in July of 2014. John Crawford was killed in August 2014 while carrying a b-b gun, that Walmart was selling, inside Walmart, in Ohio, an open-carry state. Laquan McDonald was shot 16 times by police in Chicago in October of 2014. Tamir Rice was killed within seconds of police arriving on the scene while playing with a toy gun in a park in Cleveland in November 2014.

Walter Scott was killed while running away from police in Charleston in April 2015. Freddie Gray was killed in Baltimore the same month. Samuel DuBose was shot and killed in Cincinnati in July 2015. Sandra Bland was killed in Texas the same month.

Alton Sterling was killed in Baton Rouge in July 2016. Philando Castile was killed in Minneapolis the same month.

Then Terence Crutcher and Keith Lamont Scott were killed in September.

Something had to be said, so we started showing up at the park.

Judy
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