

A letter from Sarah Dozier

Dear friends,

One year ago today, my 92 year-old Aunt, Kathryn Johnston, was living a peaceful life in the comfort of her own home. One year ago today, unknown to my Aunt, the City of Atlanta and its police department lied to a judge by claiming that an informant had bought drugs at her house. The policemen broke into her home without warning and gunned her down in a hail of bullets. They handcuffed her as she lay dying in a pool of her own blood on the floor of her own home

To cover the crimes of its police department, the City blamed my Aunt for what happened. The City claimed the police had found drugs in her home. The City made it sound like my aunt had wounded two police officers. The City blamed my aunt for starting the gunfire.

Due to the hard work of many individuals, especially the Rev Markel Hutchins, the courage of informant Alex White and the willingness of two Atlanta police officers to finally tell the truth, today we know what really happened. We know that my Aunt did not deal drugs or keep them in her house. We know that she did not shoot anyone but fired one defensive shot in the air that struck no one. The policemen shot and wounded each other while illegally raiding her home. We also know the policemen planted drugs in her house to cover up their crimes and to meet a quota to satisfy their superiors and keep their jobs.

While I am thankful my Aunt's innocence has been proven, I am deeply saddened that the City of Atlanta and its Chief of Police have refused to admit responsibility for unconstitutional policies, lack of supervision, and inadequate training of police officers that ultimately killed her. Not until the City of Atlanta fully admits and accepts its responsibility for the death of my Aunt will justice be served and true healing occur.

The filing of this lawsuit continues my Aunt's journey to justice. While I cannot bring her back to life, I want to ensure that her legacy is the removal of unconstitutional practices by the Atlanta PD so that this never happens to anyone else.

I thank you deeply for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely, Sarah Dozier