

Las Vegas father shot dead by police after calling for help during home invasion

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Last Tuesday, November 12, Brandon Durham, a 43-year-old father and realtor, was shot dead in his home by a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police officer after he called the police for help during a home invasion. Within 16 seconds of kicking down the door to Durham's house, Las Vegas cop Alexander Bookman, 26, shot Durham six times, including in the head.

Alejandra Marie Boudreaux, 31, is accused of breaking into the residence and assaulting Durham. Citing police documents, KLAS8, the local CBS affiliate, reported that after the police killing of Durham, Boudreaux told cops she had broken into Durham's home in an attempt to have police show up to the residence and kill her.

"I wanted the cops to shoot me dead. And I wanted (Durham) to live the wreckage that I caused in his house," Boudreaux allegedly told the police, per CNN.

Police were well aware of Boudreaux before they shot Durham. KLAS8 reported that Durham had called police the previous night November 10 to report that an "ex-friend" named "Marie"—Boudreaux's middle name—was at his home and refused to leave. Durham was not home at the time, but according to KLAS8, Officer Bookman arrived at the residence at 12:11 a.m. on November 11 and spoke to Boudreaux, who "agreed to leave."

When Boudreaux returned to Durham's residence the following evening, armed apparently with several bricks, Durham was home with his 15-year-old daughter. In a frantic call to police, Durham is heard telling the dispatcher that he thinks two people were "trying to get in the house" and "shooting." While speaking to the dispatcher, Durham informs her that his daughter was home with him and that they were going to lock themselves in separate rooms.

As Durham was speaking to emergency services, a neighbor also placed a call to the police to report the incident. The unnamed woman told the dispatcher she had seen one person break into Durham's house and that she was "attacking his home with bricks."

Both Durham and his neighbor accurately described the intruder as a person wearing a "hoodie" or hooded sweatshirt.

This, however, did not prevent the cop from executing Durham less than two seconds after coming in contact with him. In a press conference on November 14, the Las Vegas police released body-camera footage of the incident.

The footage shows Bookman kicking down Durham's front door and moving through his home with his pistol drawn. In the footage, screams and slamming are heard as Bookman makes his way through the hallway and turns a corner, at which point he sees two standing figures, Boudreaux, wearing a hoodie, and Durham, in his underwear, struggling over a knife in a doorway.

Boudreaux has the knife in her hand, but Durham has her arm pinned up against the wall, preventing her from slashing him. As soon as the cop sees the knife, he yells, "Hey, drop the knife!" then he aims directly for Durham's head and shoots him once.

Durham moans in agony as he shot and both he and Boudreaux fall to the ground. Goodman takes several steps forward and advances toward the pair, his gun still trained on Durham. Within three seconds, Goodman shoots Durham another five times, despite the fact that he had done nothing to threaten the officer, and in fact, was in the process of being attacked.

As is the case in virtually every police murder, Bookman has not been charged with a crime and instead is on a paid-vacation known as "administrative

leave.” In response to protests from Durham’s family and mass outrage in the wider community, Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson tried to tamp down expectations of a quick or just resolution.

“It is important to understand this investigation is in its infancy,” he said. The cops will be investigating themselves so it will “take weeks, if not months, for the Las Vegas Police Department to complete its investigation,” Wolfson stated, adding, “therefore, it would be inappropriate for me to express an opinion regarding whether criminal charges are going to be filed. I simply do not have all the information yet.”

In the press conference where portions of the body-camera footage were released, Las Vegas Metro Assistant Sheriff Dori Koren attempted to justify the policeman’s actions by pointing out that “both” appeared to be struggling over the knife and that cops only have “split-seconds” to make decisions.

Durham’s 15-year-old daughter, Isabella Durham, who was home during the break-in and subsequent police killing, told media last week that she is “disgusted with the Metropolitan Police.” Isabella rejected the police lies stating, “The fact that they wrongfully shot my dad and then tried to spin the narrative to cover them, saying that there were gunshots there, that he had a knife, none of that is true.”

Isabella added, “The violence that occurred here was under someone who was extremely, extremely angry and extremely violent. And I am disgusted in how the Metropolitan Police told my father, after killing him, to stay down. Knowing, treating him like he was the suspect in the situation, he was the victim, and I’m disgusted that the Metropolitan Police will allow me to live fatherless for the rest of my life.”

Rachel Gore, Durham’s domestic partner, has organized a GoFundMe. Gore noted that in addition to being a father to Isabella, he was a step-father to 13-year-old Branden Gore. On Saturday, November 23, family friends and the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP will be marching on Las Vegas City Hall demanding “Justice for Brandon.”

Durham’s death represents at least the thirteenth police killing by Las Vegas Metro this year, an increase of five compared to last year. Nationally, police in the

US have already shot and killed over 1,000 people.



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