

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2020

Headline: Justice for family of Stacy (Patrick) Kenny Killed by Springfield Police

Location: Springfield, Oregon

Lead: The case of Estate of Stacy W. Kenny et al. v. Kraig Akins et al. was settled on July 9, 2020, bringing justice to the family of Stacy (Patrick) Kenny¹ and requiring long-overdue reform of the Springfield Police Department. The terms of the settlement require the Springfield Police Department to:

- submit to a comprehensive top-to-bottom review of its use of force accountability processes,
- make needed changes to its use of force policy,
- train its police officers to use the minimum force necessary to accomplish their lawful objectives,
- and creating transparency by requiring a public annual report on use of force.

In addition, the City of Springfield agreed to a \$4.55 million settlement, the largest settlement for a police use of force case in Oregon.

Body: Stacy Kenny was killed by Springfield Police Sgt. R.A. Lewis on March 31, 2019, after he and three other Springfield police officers beat and Tased the unarmed Kenny while Kenny was seat-belted in her car and on the phone with 911. The amended complaint filed by Barbara and Christopher Kenny on June 3, 2020 (Read the complaint here: <https://kenny-family.com/2019/10/21/complaint/>) describes the events, and the culture of the Department, in detail.

Ultimately, Stacy Kenny was killed as a result of an insular and toxic warrior culture that is deeply rooted within the Springfield Police Department. The effect this culture had was not to protect and serve but to harm.

Barbara Kenny would like the public to know that “losing a child leaves a hole in your soul forever. I’ve been forced to come to terms with the violence that Patrick suffered that night. And there is the added trauma of learning that the initial public presentation of the event concealed the truly shocking nature of what actually transpired.”

Kenny suffered from schizophrenia, a debilitating and non-curable brain disease. The family intends to use a portion of the settlement to support important mental health research and advocacy, both within the

Springfield community and nationally. Stacy was more than her schizophrenia. Included her is video honoring Stacy's life, along with a downloadable photo of Stacy: <https://kenny-family.com/2020/07/15/who-was-stacy-kenny/>.

The Kennys are grateful to those governing members of the City of Springfield courageous enough to partner with them in settlement. A change in culture is necessary if Springfield police officers are to continue to serve and protect the community. There is no greater governmental intrusion of personal freedom than the taking of a life. It is the Kennys' hope this settlement will ultimately reduce the likelihood that a police officer will unnecessarily take a life in the future.

As part of the settlement, a portion of the proceeds will be used to commission an independent critical incident analysis and review the circumstances surrounding Kenny's death, which will be made public and presented to the City Council. Moving forward, the Kennys will be working within their community and with their local, state, and federal representatives to bring a guardian mentality and procedural justice to policing. Christopher Kenny said, "We have reached the point in our grieving process that we have hope that Patrick's death will not have been in vain."

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¹ The victim in this incident requested to be known as "Patrick" and "him" by his immediate family. When operating in the rest of society, Kenny wanted to be referred to as "Stacy" and "her". In honor of Kenny's wishes, the family will continue to refer to Kenny as "Patrick" but request the media and all others refer to Kenny as "Stacy".