

My name is Shawn Williams. I'm the father of Antonio Williams, who was murdered by the NYPD's Anti-Crime Unit in a hail of 15 bullets, shooting so recklessly from over 55 feet away in the dark that they killed their own cop too.

My son was just a Black man waiting for a cab. The NYPD had no legal justification to stop him. His only crime was "standing while Black."

It's infuriating to learn that Mayor Adams' financial plan is once again not only giving the NYPD preferential treatment but also **increasing the NYPD's budget by close to \$135M** in the name of some twisted dangerous approach to public safety.

My son Antonio Williams was safe until he was approached by the NYPD. The same way Kawaski Trawick, Allan Feliz, Eric Garner, and countless other New Yorkers were safe until the NYPD engaged with them. Kawaski was in his own home.

How dare you increase the NYPD's budget as you subject life-saving non-police services to yet another round of cuts, and while you prepare to **payout over \$100M in NYPD misconduct settlements from tax payer dollars.**

- This doesn't even include the personnel costs of keeping cops who kill, brutalize and sexually assault on payroll when the NYPD obstructs discipline and refuses to fire them for years.

It's been over 4 years and I'm still waiting for the CCRB to complete its investigation. One of the cops has already resigned.

NYPD abuses against New Yorkers is commonplace - again without consequence (e.g. unconstitutional and abusive stops like the one that resulted in the death of my son are increasing.

The NYPD's Strategic Response Group that has a long and documented history of abuse, misconduct, and racial profiling that has cost the city an **estimated \$135M** so far.

Unlike most other city agencies, the NYPD routinely blows its annual budget - without any consequences or penalty. **Treating the NYPD's bloated budget as untouchable while crucial city services are being slashed makes us less safe.**

In my daily work, I see the impact of people not having access to proper mental healthcare. It is backwards and barbaric to prioritize policing and criminalization over the mental health of New Yorkers, especially when the majority of people killed by police and people being caged in prisons have mental health issues.

New Yorkers are suffering while the NYPD waste millions on things like over **\$1,600 per month for a robot cop** (that also costs **2 cops to protect the robot**), **\$75K each for robot dogs**, and **\$500M to hide radio transmissions** from the public (despite it being fine for 87 years), true safety means investing in New Yorkers.

NYC should be investing in community-based mental healthcare, not police. We need quality police free education, food programs, real affordable housing, and safe spaces like libraries and community centers.

As a family with two full-time working parents, we have already been pushed to the outskirts of this city due the administration's refusal to invest in real affordable housing. This isn't right!

The only way to ensure what happened to our son does not happen again is to hold abusive officers accountable, divest from the NYPD, and invest that money into the programs, services and infrastructure that will enable our communities to be safe and healthy and to thrive.

END

IGNORE THIS

My name is Shawn Williams. I'm the father of Antonio Williams, who was unjustly murdered by the NYPD. Antonio was a loving son, twin, brother, and father. Because of the violent actions of the NYPD's Anti-Crime Unit, Antonio's babies have to grow up without their dad.

For over four years, my family and I have been calling for the mayor and NYPD Commissioner to fire the officers who murdered Antonio, but none of them have been held accountable in any way. Instead, they remain a threat to public safety as gun-carrying cowboy cops and have been collecting paychecks, paid with city funds that could have been used to hire teachers, guidance counselors, and healthcare providers. The same is true for the cops who killed Delrawn Small, Kawaski Trawick, Ronald Anthony Smith, Allan Feliz and too many others because the NYPD regularly obstructs discipline for officers who kill and abuse people and it's our communities that pay the price.

Along with all the money the City pays out to keep abusive officers on the force, NYC is also on track to spend over \$100M again this year for police misconduct lawsuit settlements, while the kinds of institutions and services that will help keep communities safe and healthy – like libraries, pre-K and affordable housing programs – are slashed.

This is Mayor Adams' twisted approach to public safety and addressing the needs of New Yorkers and his November Financial Plan takes it to the extreme by projecting a \$135million increase to the NYPD's budget, while subjecting life-saving non-police services to yet another round of cuts.

On September 29, 2019, Antonio was simply waiting for a cab in the Bronx, when plainclothes Anti-Crime officers drove up and jumped out at him. They had no legal justification to stop him. His only crime was "standing while being Black."

The NYPD had no reasonable suspicion for stopping Antonio. Antonio had the right to leave, but when he did, officers chased him, beat him, and gunned him down in a hail of 15 bullets. They were so reckless that when they shot at our son from over 50 feet away in the dark, they also murdered one of their own. NYPD claims Antonio had a gun, but my son never pulled a gun and that gun was never fired. My son was never a threat to anyone.

The Anti-Crime unit that killed Antonio was disbanded the next year because of its brutality, but Mayor Adams brought it back and rebranded it as "Neighborhood Safety Teams". The Mayor has been patting himself on the back about these teams - which are contributing to the rise of unconstitutional stop-and-frisk - while at the same time whittling away and New Yorkers' social safety net.

Now Mayor Adams has put these teams in more neighborhoods along with drones, robots, and encrypted radio transmissions. None of this increases our safety. It only means that the NYPD is draining resources from the programs that will keep us safe while further criminalizing us.

In my daily work, I see the impact of people not having access the proper mental healthcare. Rather than funding these extreme policing tactics, NYC should be investing in community-based mental healthcare, among other non-police services.

The only way to ensure what happened to our son does not happen again is to hold abusive officers accountable, divest from the NYPD, and invest that money into the programs, services and infrastructure that will enable our communities to be safe