



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Family reacts to grand jury decision in case of HPD officer's fatal shooting of
Pearland man on Christmas Day**

HOUSTON – The family of Blake A. Pate, a 23-year-old man shot and killed on last Christmas Day by a Houston police sergeant with a history of multiple suspensions and a prior shooting, will be on the steps of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center on **August 9th** to give a press conference regarding the grand jury's decision to return a no true bill of the officer. The press conference will start at **10:30 a.m.**

The family of Blake Pate, who is represented by David Hodges of Kennedy Hodges, LLP, demands a federal investigation into what happened the night Mr. Pate died after being shot several times by Police Sergeant Curtis Hampton.

On December 25, 2011, Mr. Pate was involved in an automobile accident around 11:00 p.m. near the 9300 block of Tidwell by the Lakecrest Village apartment complex. Residents of the apartment complex say they heard noises and went outside to see Mr. Pate and Sergeant Curtis Hampton at the scene and Sergeant Hampton shoot and kill the unarmed Mr. Pate.

Several witnesses claim there was no struggle and no reason for the police officer involved to shoot Mr. Pate and that the officer overreacted. In addition, Mr. Pate did not brandish nor was he in possession of any weapons. A spokesman for the Houston Police Department claims the sergeant felt "threatened" and drew his weapon and shot at least five or six times.

Sergeant Hampton was no stranger to controversy. He has been suspended from the police force multiple times, including a three-month suspension (for unknown reasons). He received a lesser suspension for assaulting a fellow police officer. HPD noted in Sgt. Hampton's file, "He used a gun. He used a pillow to muffle the Complainant's cries. He used handcuffs to incapacitate the Complainant... while wearing a stocking over his face." As HPD noted in its own documents, "It took the victim biting [Sgt. Hampton's] penis and drawing blood before he stopped to consider whether or not she had consented to having sex with him." HPD went on to say "it is extremely disturbing that someone in a position of authority cannot see the error of what he did. The fact that [Sgt. Hampton] seeks to blame the victim makes his actions even more egregious."

Another fellow officer filed a complaint against Sgt. Hampton for "attempted rape." While the Administrative Disciplinary Committee recommended an "indefinite suspension," Chief of Police Hurtt made a final determination of a 15-day temporary suspension.

Blake Pate's family questions how an officer such as Sgt. Hampton is able to remain on patrol

after HPD repeatedly noted his “lack of sound judgment.”

Kennedy Hodges, LLP invites the media to a press conference, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on August 9th, 2012. The press conference will take place on the courthouse steps at 1201 Franklin, Houston, Texas 77002.

Kennedy Hodges handles civil rights, personal injury, trucking accidents, medical malpractice, defective products, and wage and overtime claims nationwide.

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