

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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The family of Chase Hammer has settled the civil rights lawsuit they filed against the City of Salem and the officers who killed Chase in October of 2012.

Background: in October of 2012, the Salem Police department responded to a call for a welfare check on Chase, a-27-year old Black male, reporting that he was suicidal, under the influence of Xanax, and in possession of his father's gun. When Salem police arrived on scene – Chase's home where he lived with his father – he was not there. Over an hour later, after dark, Chase approached his home, walking slowly and calmly up the street. Officers testified that Chase was holding a revolver, upside down and by the butt, as he approached his home. The officers shined their lights at him and officers simultaneously shouted different commands at him. Chase gave no sign that he understood the commands or even that police officers were present. The officers gave Chase no time to comply with any of the commands: a moment after giving them, an officer shot Chase twice, killing him. Chase's family was nearby and witnessed his death. The police left his body lying on the street until morning.

Chase, beloved father, brother and son, was universally described by his friends and family as a loving and kind person, deeply devoted to his two young daughters.

As part of the resolution of the lawsuit, Chase's family required the inclusion of important non-monetary terms. As such, this settlement requires Salem (1) to develop a protocol for dealing with family members of subjects of officer-involved shootings; (2) to research and develop a more comprehensive policy to de-escalate and deal with mental health issues and people in crisis, to be reviewed by an outside expert; (3) to review and assess its law enforcement response to suicide calls for the past 5 years; (4) to continue to participate and expand its mobile crisis response teams and crisis outreach response teams; and (5) to hold a meeting with Chase's mother, Ms. Williams. The City will also pay \$100,000 to resolve the case.

In light of recent and ongoing national attention to law enforcement shootings of Black people and to the many concerns involving race and policing, Chase's family encourages the City of Salem to implement concrete measures to address systemic issues of racial bias in law enforcement, including training to combat bias and collecting and analyzing demographic data related to police officers' stops and uses of force. While their grief over Chase's loss is immeasurable, his family hopes the resolution of this case will prompt these necessary changes to ensure both officers and community members make it home safely.

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