

# Justice4Pedie Update: May 3, 2018

## Richmond police used excessive force against man killed by officers, citizen board says

The Perez Family and their supporters have been completely vindicated as Richmond's Citizen Police Review Commission sustained their complaint that excessive force was used in the police killing of their son, Pedie Perez. This refutes the attempted police cover-up and opens the way for criminal prosecution of the offending officer. Here are some excerpts from a KTVU News report by Debora Villalon, dated May 3, 2018:

*Richmond's Citizen Police Review Commission, in a 7-1 vote, sustained a complaint that excessive and unreasonable force was used against 24-year-old Richard "Pedie" Perez. . . . The family hopes it prompts the Contra Costa County Grand Jury and the new District Attorney, to take a closer look at the incident. "The truth is what we're seeking," said father Richard Perez, Jr. "after the police slandered my son."*

Read the full story online at: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/richmond-police-used-excessive-force-against-man-killed-by-officers-citizen-board-says>

## What Happens Next?

### Will the full report ever be made public?

Although the Richmond Police Department and Police Officer Association refuse to acknowledge any wrongdoing on the part of Officer Jensen or any kind of cover-up on their part, how can they expect community trust for their "community policing" program? How can the community expect improvement until the RPD admits something is wrong?

***See other side for more info.***

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### **The Oscar Grant Committee Against Police Brutality and State Repression**

**JOIN US**, our meetings are usually on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph, Oakland. Check our website to confirm.

**[www.oscargrantcommittee.org](http://www.oscargrantcommittee.org) • [oscargrantcommittee.ogc@gmail.com](mailto:oscargrantcommittee.ogc@gmail.com)**

**Also see the Perez Family website: [Justice4Pedie.com](http://Justice4Pedie.com)**

**Accountability + Transparency = Community Trust**

**“I just want flat out justice . . . If the facts are that the cop did what I think he did, well, we don’t need cops like that.” — Rick Perez, Pedie’s father**

## **Justice4Pedie Background**

### **THE KILLING**

On September 14, 2014, just minutes after midnight, Richard “Pedie” Perez III, was shot and killed by Richmond Police Officer Wallace Jensen.

Immediately after the shooting, Officer Jensen was sequestered in a hotel to meet with an attorney from the Richmond Police Officers Association. He did not give any statement until after this consultation. Neither Officer Jensen nor any other police officer made any effort to check to see if Pedie was still alive nor did they make any effort to provide first aid, although they presumably have been trained in this area. The paramedics arrived nearly five minutes later, but Pedie’s body was left on the cold floor of Uncle Sam’s Liquor and Deli for over seven hours. Meanwhile, other Richmond Police officers visited the Perez home where they interrogated Pedie’s father as if Pedie were the perpetrator of a serious crime, instead of being the victim of a police shooting. They did not inform Pedie’s father of his son’s death until Mr. Perez directly asked if his son had been killed.

### **THE COVER-UP**

Within hours of the killing, Police Chief Chris Magnus released an official report essentially blaming Pedie for being killed, saying that Pedie was “aggressive” and that Pedie “grabbed and held on to one of the officer’s hands, while using his other hand to simultaneously go for the officer’s gun.” However, although Chief Magnus promised “the greatest degree of transparency possible involving this critical incident,” police have yet to provide any evidence supporting their narrative,

News reports immediately disputed the police version, noting that the Perez family and eyewitness reports said the Pedie was neither aggressive nor reaching for any gun. A woman who was with Perez just moments before the incident said:

*"That boy don't hurt nobody. He might have been drunk or whatever, but there's no use for that police officer to even have a gun pulled on that boy."* Another witness said that: *"From this point on I don't think nobody is going to look at cops the same way."*

The Perez family consulted the noted Civil Rights attorney, John Burris, who filed a federal lawsuit. They also contacted the Oscar Grant Committee Against Police Brutality and State Repression (OGC). As the OGC, in cooperation with the

Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) and the East Bay Chapter of Veterans for Peace (VFP), began to hold public forums and demonstrations and passed out thousands of flyers on the Pedie Perez case, with titles such as **“The Shooting of Pedie Perez: The DA Says “Justifiable Homicide”— Ignores Evidence and Witnesses,” “Eyewitnesses Contradict Cop in Police Killing,” “The DA’s Statement Doesn't Hold Up!,” and “Justice Denied In Richmond.”** These flyers were all based on evidence developed by the Perez family and the OGC, based on their contacts with the community and including the actual store surveillance video which showed the shooting of Pedie. As a result, the local news media began to cover the case and the lack of police evidence more extensively.

### **THE CITY COUNCIL TAKES ACTION**

In March 2015, the Perez family filed a complaint with the Richmond Police Commission but this complaint was rejected by Richmond City Attorney Bruce Goodmiller, blocking an independent investigation. This in turn prompted an angry response from Police Commissioner Felix Hunziker: *“I'm pro-citizen. I'm also pro-cop. A young man is dead. I have no idea if Pedie Perez's death was justifiable or not but I do know our City has blocked his family's right to an independent investigation.”*

As the controversy spread and community concerns deepened, the Richmond City Council, in February 2016, voted 4-3 to instruct the Richmond Police Commission to hire an independent investigator not connected to the police department to investigate the Perez murder. **The City Council also voted to require the Police Commission to automatically investigate any future police shootings and/or use of physical force resulting in serious injuries.**

The investigator hired by the City resigned without any investigation being done. Meanwhile the community was shocked to learn that Pedie’s killer, **Officer Wallace Jensen, 33, will receive a tax-free pension of \$70,700 annually from a disability retirement, available only to police and firefighters, for an undisclosed “disability.”**

### **2017: QUESTIONS REMAIN**

The Perez family and supporters are looking forward to a new Special Investigator and to answers to their questions about the killing of their only son, not more evasions and cover-up.

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## **What do YOU think?**

**Watch the store surveillance video and read the eyewitness accounts on our website and make up your own mind. Is this the kind of “community policing” that Richmond needs?**

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