

Sparks City Council Meeting 01/14/2019 Public Comment agenda item 4

My name is Annemarie Grant. My name is Annemarie Grant. My brother was killed when Reno Police hog tied him during a mental health crisis at a casino he was a guest at. Instead of getting an ambulance they hog tied him for 40+ minutes as he begged for medical attention. They choose to keep a knee is his back with him face down while they filled out their paperwork before transporting him to Washoe County Jail and dumped him there still hog tied. The incompetent poorly trained deputies instead of getting my brother medical attention ignored his pleading that he couldn't breathe that he was going to die. HE told them that they were killing him. Four deputies then smothered my brother to death. Sparks PD did the so called independent investigation and found no wrong doing. My comment today is in regards to the passing of a beloved community member this past weekend Lisa Bonta.

In case you aren't familiar with who Lisa Bonta is let me fill you in. Lisa was a mother to 5 children 2 boys and 3 girls, an activist, and a wife. On 10/22/2017 Lisa's husband was shot and killed by 3 Sparks Police officers. I write to you today to urge this council to inquire into Sparks PD's policy of not releasing the names of cops who shoot community members AKA Officer involved Shootings (OIS).

Lisa passed away without ever knowing the names of the 3 officers who stole her husband's life **450** days ago today! A call for assistance turns deadly far too often in Washoe County. Humberto Vera Munoz was shot and killed by SPD 01/24/2018 and those cops name still have yet to be released. There is a clear pattern of obscuring transparency when it comes to releasing information to the public as well as the families of those killed by police. I know it's hard for you to imagine being in Lisa's shoes but I would advise you to wake up! Nobody is safe from police brutality in Washoe County including yourselves and your loved ones.

Imagine the love of your life being gunned down and never receiving any answers before you died as to who the perpetrators were? Imagine having terminal breast cancer and being locked in ambulance for several hours with your husband's dead body lying feet away from you. Imagine your 16 year old daughter sitting in that ambulance with you. Her father feet away dead his life stolen by cowards cops! Then imagine the Sparks PD and Reno PD withholding you oxygen and vital medications from you so that RPD can interrogate you over the homicide THEY COMMITTED!!!! You know it's always best to interrogate someone with terminal cancer who has been denied their medication and just had their husband blown away in front of them. That's sarcasm in case you missed it.

What happened to TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY in the city of Sparks? It's great that all the officers are now required to wear body cams. However when the footage was requested in the latest Sparks OIS (Rolando Brizuela killed 07/17/18) the request was denied! What is the point of having the body cams if the community's requests to view footage are being denied?? I am certain the funding for the body cams is made possible via the tax payers. These cops kill someone and then are back on the streets working within a matter of days! I know I surely would like to know what cops have pulled the trigger with or without deadly results.

The Bonta family, the community, and several other Washoe County families are receiving deafening silence from Sparks Police when it comes to Officer Involved Shootings. Lisa Bonta passed away without ever receiving any answers. Please don't let another family go through the nightmare of being victimized all over again by those who are supposed to protect them! Lisa battled courageously for Justice for her husband Johnny. All she wanted was the answers she and several other families and the community deserve!!!

It's time for TRUE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY!!!

Yours Truly,

Annemarie Grant

#SayHisName #JusticeForJohnnyBonta #JailKillerCops #RIPLisaBonta



