

### **PAYING TRIBUTE ?**

#### BLACK LIVES MATTER: A COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION

MARCUS DAVID PETERS: WHO THREATENED TO KILL A POLICEMAN IN 2018, AFTER 3 HIT AND RUN VIOLATIONS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED.





*Welcome to Beautiful* MARCUS-DAVID PETERS CIRCLE

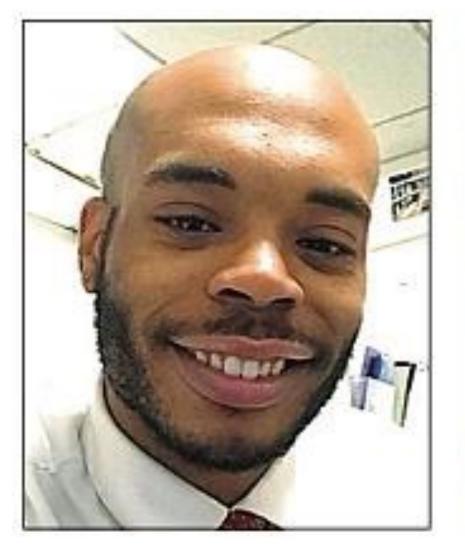
LIBERATED BY THE PEOPLE MMXX

Richmond, Va / USA - August 8th, 2020: Sign placed at one of the main protest locations in Richmond on Monument Ave. The sign reads "Welcome to Beautiful Marcus - David Peters Circle Liberated by the People MMXX". and sits in front of the vandalized Robert E. Lee memorial.

# WHY IS A MAN WHO THREATED TO KILL A **POLICEMAN NOW HONORED AT THE ROBERT E. LEE STATUE?**

After reviewing anew the death of Marcus-David Peters, who in 2018 was fatally shot by a Richmond police officer while in a mental health crisis, Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette W. McEachin reached the same conclusion as her predecessor: that the shooting was justified.

Peters, a 24-year-old high school teacher and recent graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, was naked and unarmed during the encounter that occurred around 5:30 p.m., on May 14, 2018 along Interstate 95/64. Officer Michael Nyantakyi shot Peters at least twice after a Taser did not subdue him as he was charging the officer.





#### Mr. Peters

## Officer Nyantakyi

# Naked man killed by police on I-95 was Marcus-David Peters, high school science teacher and VCU honors grad

In addition to his position at Essex High School, he was employed part-time at the Jefferson Hotel located at 101 Franklin Street in the City of Richmond. According to W1, Mr. Peters arrived home from work at Essex High School at approximately 4:30 p.m. on May 14, 2018. That same witness advised that Mr. Peters changed clothes, and that they smoked some marijuana before he left to see a coworker at the Jefferson Hotel.

Surveillance footage at the Jefferson Hotel captured Mr. Peters' arrival in the blue Grand Marquis at approximately 5:22 p.m. This is corroborated by cell phone records which showed he last auto-connected to the Jefferson Hotel's Wi-Fi at 5:22 p.m. The arrival footage is unremarkable, as he appeared to exit the vehicle and walk calmly into the hotel.

Once inside, however, he removed his shirt in the main lobby, dropped it on the floor and walked around topless before going downstairs to the security office. Surveillance footage at the security office showed him topless talking to someone behind a counter, but then engaging in what appeared to be a brief but tense exchange with another employee who backed away. Other witnesses advised that he went into the employee locker room where he could be heard yelling.

He appeared to exit the hotel onto the Jefferson Street side. Mr. Peters is next seen running nude and yelling on W. Franklin Street before getting into his vehicle and driving away from the hotel. VCU surveillance footage showed him traveling west on Main Street, then left on Belvidere Street, and finally rear ending the first of three vehicles. Police officer Nyantakyi, saw the crashes and pursued Peters. Eighteen seconds before he was fatally shot by a Richmond police officer on May 14, Marcus-David Peters, naked and unarmed, sat straight up after rolling around the northbound lanes of Interstate 95/64 and looked directly at the officer, as if noticing him for the first time.

"I figured it out," Peters can be heard shouting in the officer's body camera footage, which was released by the Richmond Police Department on Friday. "I'm living the dream."

Peters then stalked toward officer Michael Nyantakyi, cursing and threatening to kill the officer unless he put away his Taser, which was trained on Peters.

After issuing a warning, Nyantakyi, who had begun backing away from Peters, fired his Taser nine seconds into the encounter. Only one prong of the instrument hit Peters, who appeared unfazed and continued to aggressively lunge at the officer.





According to Herring's report, Peters' deteriorating mental health seemed to start one to two weeks prior to his death, and that his family had expressed concerns about it.

Both reports mention Peters had smoked marijuana earlier that afternoon, but McEachin's report doesn't mention the Ritalin a toxicology report found in Peters' system that had been in Herring's report.

#### **Toxicology Results**

The Certificate of Analysis outlining the results of toxicology tests was received by our office on August 14, 2018.

The relevant question is whether a reasonable officer, based on Mr. Peters' behavior, demeanor and appearance, would have believed he posed an imminent risk of death or serious injury. Mr. Peters lost a tremendous amount of blood, and he received several blood transfusions while at the hospital. Subsequent examination of his liver revealed **Fentanyl** at a concentration of 0.013 mg/kg and THC at a concentration 0.038 mg/kg. Upon information and belief, the Fentanyl was administered at VCUMC during efforts to save him.

Also present, however, was Methylphenidate (sometimes referred to as Ritalin). At the time of his death, Mr. Peters had not been issued a prescription for any formulation of Ritalin.

"The officer's ultimate decision to use lethal force was a reasonable response to the imminent danger presented to himself and the public by Mr. Peters' continued violent behavior due to his mental deterioration," McEachin wrote in her 10-page review released Friday, two years and three months after former Commonwealth's Attorney Michael N. Herring's initial report found the same.

Once again, Richmond Police Officer Michael Nyantakyi has been cleared in the May 2018 fatal shooting of 24year-old teacher Marcus-David Peters during what has been described as a mental crisis, although Mr. Peters' family continues to describe Mr. Peters' death as an unpunished murder.

After another review of the case, Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette W. McEachin found that Officer Nyantakyi was justified in firing his weapon as Mr. Peters, naked and unarmed, charged him.

It is the same conclusion Mrs. McEachin's predecessor, former city Commonwealth's Attorney Michael N. Herring, reached in 2018.

"The officer's ultimate decision to use lethal force was a reasonable response to the imminent danger to himself and the public by Mr. Peters' continued violent behavior due to his mental deterioration," Mrs. McEachin wrote in concluding the 10-page report released Nov. 6 after a nearly 90-day review.

The case is somewhat different than other police shootings that have gained widespread national attention. Mr. Peters, Officer Nyantakyi and the city's prosecutor all are Black.

Peters' family and local activists have called for re-opening the case saying he "needed help, not death," and it became a demand of demonstrators who began protesting police brutality nearly six months ago following George Floyd's killing by Minneapolis police. Peters' name has become a symbol of the city's ongoing civil unrest as the circle around the graffiti-covered monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was renamed by protesters in his honor.

# IT WAS AN ILL-GAINED TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHO WAS GUILTY OF 3 HIT-AND-RUN'S, AND THREATS TO KILL A POLICEMAN.