

A thirty-seven-year-old mother named Natasha McKenna was killed in Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in February 2015.

Jan. 25, 2015: Natasha called the FCPD to report an assault. A Fairfax County Police officer took her to a local hospital where Natasha decided not to pursue any investigation or police involvement.

Jan. 26, 2015: Natasha was taken to the Adult Detention Center in the morning. FCPD contacted the City of Alexandria about transporting her back into their jurisdiction because of an existing warrant for Natasha.

Jan. 31, 2015: Natasha was mentally ill and her condition was deteriorating. Fairfax County Sheriff's Office claims Natasha was "combative, dangerous." One officer said she seemed "demonic."

Feb. 3, 2015: Natasha was scheduled to be transported to Alexandria. The team included 6 sheriff's deputies, 2 of whom were supervisors. Natasha was left naked and her face was covered with a spit net. She was shackled and tased 4 times while restrained, creating a medical crisis.

Feb. 8, 2015 Natasha McKenna died in the hospital, never having regained consciousness.



Since Natasha's death...

- Not one officer has been reprimanded, disciplined, nor fired. Both Fairfax County **Sheriff Stacey Kincaid** and **Chief of Police Ed Roessler** stated their internal investigations found no fault with the officers' actions and stated all involved were following standard procedures.
- Not one officer has been charged. **Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh** declined to indict the officers involved arguing that "excited delirium," not repeated tasing, was to blame for her death. "Excited delirium" is a medically-dubious condition cited most often by medical examiners in cases involving police killings.
- **Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices and Review Commission** was formed to evaluate existing police procedures and practices and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Their work was completed in the fall of 2015 when they delivered 142 recommendations to the Board.
- Just days after the anniversary of Natasha's death, Fairfax County held a press conference announcing the inauguration of its **Diversion First** program, which would begin diverting potential inmates from the Adult Detention Center to a mental health assessment center in Merrifield.
- In nearly every proceeding where Natasha's death is mentioned, at public meetings, press conferences, and in budget documents submitted by the FCPD and the Sheriff to the Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County refuses to **#SayHerName**, referring often to Natasha as "the incident at ADC" (Adult Detention Center).

WE STILL HAVE QUESTIONS...



...AND WE STILL HAVE DEMANDS.

We demand **accountability** for Natasha's death:

- The officers who killed Natasha should not be empowered to kill again. They should be fired.
- Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh and Sheriff Kincaid were just re-elected in 2015. Until they are out of office, we will remind them of their sworn duty to defend women like Natasha McKenna from police abuses.

We demand Fairfax County **implement robust change**:

- We demand that this county give Natasha McKenna her full dignity by *speaking her name*, as well as the name of any other civilian killed due either to its negligence or direct action.
- *Get police out of the diversion process.* As it has operated so far, the decision to divert belongs to the officer who arrives on-scene. These decisions should be made by medical professionals, not police. The current procedure has police hand custody of a diverted person off to another officer at Merrifield, and if the diverted person needs transport to a medical facility, police handle that as well. None of this would have served Natasha McKenna.
- Reject the diversion criteria that would send "violent" offenders straight to jail. There has even been suggestion that victims would have a say in whether or not a person was diverted. Chief Roessler has said law enforcement officers would decide whether or not assault on their person was hostile or symptomatic of mental distress. Again, a woman in crisis, fearful for her life, as Natasha was, would not have been diverted according to such subjective, unprofessional criteria.
- The Ad Hoc Commission's work, while extensive, is incomplete until changes are actually implemented by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission recommended citizen oversight, leaving room for former and current law enforcement to sit on a review panel in officer-involved injuries to the community. Even at the end of the "independent" review process, all decisions still reside with Chief of Police. We demand civilian oversight empowered to make firing decisions when they deem an officer is unsafe for the community.
- We reject the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendation that all Fairfax County officers carry tasers. At the September 2015 meeting, the ACLU expressed grave concerns that an all-carry policy would include arming school resource officers and sheriff's deputies at the ADC, both of which work with particularly vulnerable populations.
- Given the abusive manner in which Natasha's naked body was handled during the attack that ultimately killed her, we call upon the Board of Supervisors to evaluate existing police procedures at both the ADC and in FCPD to establish more robust protections against sexual assault at the hands of police.
- Sheriff Kincaid has curbed the use of tasers in the Adult Detention Center while the use of tasers can be studied. We demand that this ban be made permanent policy. Tasers are not a "non-lethal" alternative to guns. Tasers can be used to torture and kill.

We call on **the federal government to investigate** Fairfax County on these matters:

- Attorney General Loretta Lynch should conduct a swift, thorough, and transparent investigation into the lack of justice for Natasha McKenna. Fairfax County failed to protect her and it failed to bring justice after she was killed.
- We also ask that the Attorney General examine and promote national guidelines on the use of tasers as a "non-lethal" form of force.