



Carol DeCoursey <cdecoursey@gmail.com>

Re: We are the victims of Summer St.

1 message

Slade Graves <sladestudio@gmail.com>
To: Carol DeCoursey <cdecoursey@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 8:04 PM

Dear Carol,

Wow! I applaud your hard work with this situation. I plan on getting back to you early next week. We have been busy with some family stuff.

Thanks again,
Slade

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 6:24 PM Carol DeCoursey <cdecoursey@gmail.com> wrote:

Let me assure you: I also grieve at the state of justice in our country. It is awful.

But perhaps there is some hope: On July 12, the Statesman Journal in Salem posted an article about cops who lie and otherwise do wrong,

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2020/07/13/brady-list-oregon-police-misconduct-cases-prosecutors-disclosure-exculpatory-evidence/5011457002/>

However, we must note a big red flag: Not a word mentioned about the Siege on Summer Street and police and prosecutorial misconduct, even though I have circulated the story widely to public officials -- from Salem City Councilors, Oregon House and Senate Judiciary Committee members, the State Bar Association, the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability, the Oregon Attorney General's Office -- and three Black Lives Matter gatherings at the Oregon State Capitol. On the enormous Summer Street cover-up -- not a word.

Now, some specifics:

1. As soon as I can, I will make sure our readers know your account of how Kenneth Ketchem entered your home is not the same as Kenneth's.
2. I am particularly curious about the refusal of the Fire Department to furnish you with information on its inspection. What does your Insurance company believe happened to your home? They must have relied on some report. I think it might be productive if I contacted your Insurance people and made some inquiries. Of course I would ask for your permission and the name and contact information of the company. Strikes me that your insurance company might want to make a claim against the city.
3. You might consider writing to some of the same public officials I have already contacted, report the anomalies you see, and ask them for a response. (The folks I have contacted appear at the end of Chapter 7.)
4. In particular, a letter of inquiry to the Salem Chief of Police, asking him if he reprimanded the police detective who removed the SWAT ordinance from the fire scene before the Fire Marshal's inspection.
5. Do I know a lawyer who might handle a case against the city of Salem for you? No, I don't. But as you point out, now may be the right time.

Carol

On Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 12:25 PM Slade Graves <sladestudio@gmail.com> wrote:

| Carol,

Thanks so much for your reply. The impact this has had on our lives is immeasurable. Emotionally and financially we are still reeling. I was in the house asleep when I heard the loud crash that changed the trajectory of our lives. He was not let into our house. Who opens the door to a stranger (we didn't know anyone in Salem, having only been in the house since late September...) in a pj top only? I could hear noise and immediately knew someone was in the house. When I opened the kitchen door he had opened the frig and turned wild eye-ed, arms flailing around coming at me. I closed the door telling him to take anything he wanted. I got my pj' bottoms on on then heard running down the hall past my bedroom door. I peeked out then ran thru the glass barefoot out the two back doors he had busted in through. I ran down the back steps in the rain. There was someone in plain clothes with a gun down on one knee yelling at me to "get down he has a gun".... and the nightmare that began about 7 am continued.

So that part was probably his defense - that I let him in - as I read your account - that I let him in. There are a few discrepancies like that. The jist of what you wrote seems correct. We have thought/known from the very beginning that the cops and fire department overstepped and did a cover-up, We have been kept in the dark and have been unable to obtain information, reports, etc. from either department. I tried, starting in June of last year, to find a lawyer that would take up a case against the city for what they did. No one would step up with a few lawyers saying that a jury would always say the cops and fire dept could do no wrong. They are human beings for God's sake. They made many bad calls that day that took away what we have worked to build for over 30 years.

We had no idea what had/has happened to Kenneth. We only have spoken with the DA once and that was about a month ago because the trail is set for Aug. 4th.

The guy was clearly out of his mind, on drugs or something - he wasn't specifically targeting us. The cops and fire department were targeting our home without regard to the ramifications of their actions it was a great training exercercise it seems - the last I saw that morning were cops in full metal jacket pouring out of a large vehicle.

I have been in therapy since the incident. I was unable to speak or function coherently for months. I was in shock. Our lovely family, our cats were killed. The information we got that day (my husband manned the phone) was spotty. We sat for hours at the hospital and were not seen. We gave up and drove toward our home to see the street barricaded I can hardly write this I am still so impacted. My husband who was making good money with the school district quit that day and has been unemployed ever since. I had over \$100,00- of artwork and supplies in that house not covered by insurance not to mention all of our family pictures and keepsakes. Neither one of us sleep well and I lost over 20 pounds and have had heart problems from the stress. Where is the justice? There is none forthcoming.

Since reading your article we are once again attempting to reach out for legal assistance needing a lawyer with integrity who is not afraid to go up against the city - the powers that be. Perhaps in the current climate of police overstepping their bounds we can get some representation? As stressful as pursuing this might be it is our feeling that we have a case - one that will perhaps set a precedent so that others will not suffer what happened to us.

If there is anyone you might know or perhaps someone who knows someone that can help us PLEASE contact us. We also would be glad to work with you to get information out there to others of what kind of impact this kind of bad police action has on people's lives. It should not just be swept under the rug. Thaks for your work on this.

Tim and Slade

On Sun, Jul 12, 2020 at 6:53 PM Carol DeCoursey <cdecoursey@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Slade and Tim:

Yes, Mark and I are the authors of "The Siege on Summer Street" article and follow-up fliers.

We were moved to write the article because we live in the neighborhood, and were troubled by the inappropriate use of police force.

And if you have read the 7-part article, you no doubt know of our other concerns!

Thank you for getting in touch and let us know how we might be able to assist you.

Carol

On Sun, Jul 12, 2020 at 11:16 AM Slade Graves <sladestudio@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

Regarding articles written "The Siege on Summer Street" online - we are the victims, Tim and Slade (Cynthia) Graves. Are you the parties responsible for writing this article? If so, is it possible to speak/communicate directly with you? If you are not, can you refer us to the party/parties responsible for this series of articles?

We are SO grateful for someone doing this. We have been so damaged by the crime and have gone down so many dead ends. We have been unable to find any information anywhere. Please if you have any information on the author/authors of this article call us @ [REDACTED] or my husband Tim @ [REDACTED] or email us at this address: sladestudio@gmail.com or tim.emeraldcities@gmail.com

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for SGS
Slade Graves, **artist**

"one sees clearly only with the heart. what is essential is invisible to the eye."

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Carol & Mark DeCoursey

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Salem, Oregon 97301

Carol: [REDACTED]

Mark: [REDACTED]

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