

American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama Comment on Galleria Shooting

Publication info: Targeted News Service ; Washington, D.C. [Washington, D.C]24 Nov 2018.

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FULL TEXT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama issued the following news release:

Hoover Police shot Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr., an African American male, stating he was an active shooter in the Galleria Mall. Just hours later they admitted to mistakenly identifying him. (via AL.com)

We offer our condolences to Bradford's family and friends. Black and brown people shouldn't have to live in constant fear of law enforcement officials who are charged with protecting the public. Implicit bias is entrenched in police practices that are inherently racist and that culture must change.

The ACLU of Alabama expects the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Hoover Police Department to conduct transparent, unbiased investigations into this tragic death. Accountability of law enforcement agents to the public is critical given their absolute authority to use lethal force in some circumstances. It is crucial that those entrusted with that level of authority be committed to using it sparingly, equitably, legally, and in a racially unbiased way.

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DETAILS

Subject:	Law enforcement; State laws; Civil liberties
Location:	Alabama
Company / organization:	Name: American Civil Liberties Union--ACLU; NAICS: 541110, 813311; Name: American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama; NAICS: 813311
Publication title:	Targeted News Service; Washington, D.C.
Publication year:	2018
Publication date:	Nov 24, 2018
Dateline:	MONTGOMERY, Alabama
Publisher:	Targeted News Service
Place of publication:	Washington, D.C.
Country of publication:	United States, Washington, D.C.
Publication subject:	Public Administration

Source type: Newspapers

Language of publication: English

Document type: News

ProQuest document ID: 2140893087

Document URL: <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2140893087?accountid=14026>

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Last updated: 2018-12-03

Database: Global Newsstream

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