

# Demonstrators call for economic boycott of Midlothian to protest Jemel Roberson shooting

Vaisvilas, Frank . Chicago Tribune (Online) , Chicago: Tribune Interactive, LLC. Nov 23, 2018.

[ProQuest document link](#)

## FULL TEXT

About two dozen demonstrators marched a few blocks down Pulaski Road in Midlothian to the village's police station Friday to protest the Nov. 11 shooting of Jemel Roberson by a police officer.

"We came out on Black Friday to call for an economic boycott of Midlothian," Eric Russell, activist and co-organizer of the rally, said.

Roberson, 26, was working as security guard at Manny's Blue Room in Robbins and was attempting to apprehend a gunman when Midlothian police arrived on the scene and shot him, police said.

State police have stated that Roberson wasn't wearing anything to identify him as a security guard, but several witnesses say that "security" was written on his shirt.

Activist Matt Harrington said Friday that protestors want the police officer, whose name has not been released, to be fired and charged and for the mayor and police chief of Midlothian to step down for allegedly trying to cover-up the incident.

Shouting chants, such as "Justice for Jemel" and "No justice, no peace, no racist Midlothian police," protestors also prayed for justice while placing their hands on the Midlothian Village Hall building.

Midlothian police stopped traffic temporarily on Pulaski Road to allow the protestors to cross the street and had monitored them in front of the village hall.

Along with activist Tio Hardiman, who also attended Friday's rally, Harrington and Russell helped organize a Black Friday protest along Michigan Avenue in Chicago three years ago to protest the killing of Laquan McDonald.

Although not as large as that demonstration, Russell said they were trying to bring attention to the fact that many Robbins residents shop in Midlothian and a boycott is needed to motivate officials to act.

The marchers were joined by Roberson's girlfriend and mother of their 9-month-old child.

Harrington said other demonstrations are being planned for some time after Roberson's funeral on Saturday.

*Frank Vaisvilas is a freelance reporter for the Southtown Star.*

Credit: Frank Vaisvilas

## DETAILS

Subject:	Activists; Demonstrations & protests; Guards; Boycotts
Location:	Chicago Illinois Michigan
People:	McDonald, Laquan Roberson, Jemel Hardiman, Tio
Publication title:	Chicago Tribune (Online); Chicago
Publication year:	2018

<b>Publication date:</b>	Nov 23, 2018
<b>Section:</b>	Suburbs - Daily Southtown - News
<b>Publisher:</b>	Tribune Interactive, LLC
<b>Place of publication:</b>	Chicago
<b>Country of publication:</b>	United States, Chicago
<b>Publication subject:</b>	General Interest Periodicals--United States
<b>Source type:</b>	Blogs, Podcasts, & Websites
<b>Language of publication:</b>	English
<b>Document type:</b>	News
<b>ProQuest document ID:</b>	2137127873
<b>Document URL:</b>	<a href="https://search.proquest.com/docview/2137127873?accountid=14026">https://search.proquest.com/docview/2137127873?accountid=14026</a>
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright Tribune Interactive, LLC Nov 23, 2018
<b>Last updated:</b>	2018-11-24
<b>Database:</b>	Global Newsstream

## LINKS

[Check SFX for Availability](#)

---

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)