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1. [*Family of man killed by Pittsburg police last year files lawsuit*](#)

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Family of man killed by Pittsburg police last year files lawsuit

The East Bay Times (California)

January 18, 2019 Friday

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Length: 637 words

Byline: Nate Gartrell

Highlight: The family of a man shot and killed in a restaurant parking lot by a Pittsburg policeman last year has filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit against the police department and two officers.

Body

PITTSBURG - The family of a man shot and killed in a restaurant parking lot by a Pittsburg policeman last year has filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit against the police department and two officers.

Three family members of **Terry Amons** Jr. filed the lawsuit Thursday, through the offices of San Francisco-based civil attorney Stanley Goff. The suit seeks unspecified damages and alleges negligence and excessive force, naming Officers Dillon Tindall and Jesus Arellano as defendants.

[Tindall shot and killed Amons](#), 43, on the evening of Jan. 12, 2018, as Amons sat in his parked car outside of a Nation's restaurant in Pittsburg. Tindall later testified at a coroner's inquest hearing that he believed Amons was reaching for a revolver later found in the car's center console.

The suit notes that Amons initially complied with officers' orders to place his hands on the wheel when they approached his car, and says neither officer instructed Amons on how to exit.

"When **Terry Amons** attempted to get out of the driver's side door based on the (officers') orders to get out, defendant Tindle (sic) opened fire on him, striking him multiple times in the back and side," the suit alleges.

Amons was hit three times in the back and once in the chest, according to a forensic pathologist's testimony, one bullet piercing his heart and several organs. [Video of the shooting](#), captured on officers' body cameras, was later released by police in response to a Bay Area News Group records request.

A Pittsburg police spokesman said the department hasn't yet been formally served and will reserve commenting on the suit. In written statements, the chief has previously called it a tragic event but said Tindall was justified and in fear of his life.

The day before the suit was filed, the Northern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union named Amons' case as one of eight fatal police shootings the organization was requesting records about. [Others](#) included the notorious killing of Oscar Grant III by a BART officer, the killing of Derrick Gaines by South San Francisco police, the killing of Stephon Clark by Sacramento officers, and the killing of Ricard "Pedie" Perez by Richmond police.

Since Amons' death, [his family has held regular protests in Contra Costa County](#), including one near the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office earlier this week.

A 20-second portion of the officers' body camera footage released last year shows Amons with both hands on the wheel, but then he lowers his right hand. As Tindall opens the door, shouting, "Do not reach for that (expletive) gun"

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and "put your (expletive) hands up," Amons raises his left hand and appears to grasp a glove in his lap with his right hand. The shots are fired moments later.

[Contra Costa Judge delays release of police disciplinary records in Walnut Creek as fight over access intensifies](#)

[Oakland calls on BART to name street at Fruitvale after Oscar Grant](#)

[Some small police departments drop bodycams over expense](#)

[Arizona police release body cam footage of teen's shooting](#)

[Ex-Chicago officer sentenced for killing Laquan McDonald](#)

"I'm not reaching for nothing," Amons can be heard saying, after he's shot. He then falls from the car as Tindall and another officer continue to yell commands.

A few seconds after Amons falls out of the car, he continues to say, "I wasn't reaching for nothing, I swear to God." Tindall is heard calling for medical aid, and then the officers handcuff Amons. He was pronounced dead later that night.

Amons' family had been represented by well-known civil rights attorney John Burris, but he apparently declined to file a lawsuit. Goff, who has several other active excessive force lawsuits against police departments in Contra Costa County, recently took over.

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