

## Manafort to trial, Trump to Florida

By HERB BOYD

Special to the AmNews

For months now it seems Trump has been declaring "there's no collusion" in reference to the possible ties between Russia and the Trump 2016 presidential campaign.

Now, following the lead of his attorney Rudy Giuliani, Trump Tuesday added that "collusion is no crime." Moreover, he tweeted both conclusions in noting that "Collusion is not a crime, but that doesn't matter because there was No Collusion (except by Crooked Hillary and the Democrats!)"

Apparently, for Trump, if one position doesn't work, there's always an alternative, and although in a strict sense of the word, collusion is not a crime, but if you factor in some other circumstances, it could be.

Several pundits and legal experts have reported that anyone found collaborating with Russia during the 2016 election could be charged with other crimes, including conspiracy.

In addition, according to Carrie Cordero, a legal analyst at CNN, collusion, in a literal sense, is not a crime, but it could be if related to crimes such as receiving foreign money in a political campaign or being an accessory to computer hacking.

Some aspects of collusion could very well

emerge during the trial of Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager, who faces 18 charges of violations of tax and banking laws, although these activities occurred before he began working with Trump's campaign.

Along with their defense of collusion, Trump and Giuliani have begun personal attacks on Robert Mueller, the special counsel. They claim he should recuse himself from the investigation because he has a conflict of interest based on an alleged "contentious business relationship." Whatever that business is has not been specified by Trump or his attorney.

Trump has harangued Mueller for including too many Democratic investigators and even made wrong claims about what precipitated the Russia investigation.

But lying and false claims, as well as "fake news" are nothing new from Trump and his tweets, and it's to be seen how the Manafort trial will evolve with a parade of witnesses planned.

Meanwhile, Trump went to Florida to throw his considerable influence behind a GOP gubernatorial candidate. With the midterm elections on the horizon, Trump is sure to spend a lot of time on the road hoping to bolster his party's candidates, who, if the recent polls are right, are lagging behind their Democratic challengers.

## America's hate: Blacks killed by white civilians

By CYRIL JOSH BARKER

Amsterdam News Staff

The killing of two African-American civilians in two separate cities at the hands of whites is causing outrage about a growing problem.

The first killing occurred July 22, when Black, 18-year-old Nia Wilson was fatally stabbed at a Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority station in Oakland, Calif. Reports indicate that Wilson was with her sister, who was also injured during the attack, when 27-year-old John Cowell, who is white, stabbed Wilson while she was getting out of a train.

Cowell was arrested and police are calling the killing a random act, whereas others are calling it a hate crime. Cowell has a history of violent behavior and spend two years in prison for a robbery.

"The fact that his victims were both young African-American women stirs deep pain and palpable fear in all of us who acknowledge the reality that our country still suffers from a tragic and deeply racist history," Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said.

Local residents took to the streets over the killing, demanding that Cowell be charged with a hate crime. One vigil for Wilson that took place days after the attack drew more than 1,000 people.

"This is tearing my family apart," Wilson's father, Ansar Muhammad, said. "Nia was my youngest. It's nothing imaginable seeing your child on the BART platform with a yellow tarp over her body. That's an image I will never forget for the rest of my life. I just want justice."

Cowell appeared in court this week. Wilson's family and friends were in the courtroom. Cowell is being charged with murder and attempted murder. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said that evidence is still being gathered to determine if Cowell committed a hate crime.

"I'm just so sad for my baby, that's all I know," said Alicia Grayson, Nia Wilson's mother in a televised interview. "She was smart, energetic, loved doing her makeup."

On the other side of the country, the fatal shooting of a Black man in Clearwater, Fla. is similar to the Trayvon Martin killing.

The case involves 28-year-old Markies McGlockton who was at a convenience store and parked in a handicap parking space. While McGlockton went into a store with one of his children, McGlockton's girlfriend, Britany Jacobs, and his two other children stayed in the vehicle.

A white man, 47-year-old Michael Drejka, walked over to the vehicle and started arguing with Jacobs about the parking space.

When McGlockton went outside and saw the Drejka verbally assaulting his girlfriend and children, McGlockton pushed Drejka to the ground. Drejka then pulled out a handgun and shot McGlockton in front of his girlfriend and three children. He later died.

The entire incident was caught on surveillance video and Drejka was not arrested or charged. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said the shooting falls under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law.

"Just because you can, doesn't mean you should," Gualtieri said. "I'm not saying I agree with it. I don't make the law. I enforce the law. Others can have the debate if it is right or not."

However, the owner of the convince store, Ali Salous, told local media that Drejka has a history of causing problems.

"This guy—he did this before," Salous said. "He always hangs out in the parking lot and if he sees someone parking, he just wants to start trouble with people."

McGlockton's family has retained civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, who was the attorney for the Trayvon Martin family. Martin was killed in 2012 by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, claimed self-defense.

"The law did not protect anyone here, because we have a killer on the loose who has taken the life of an innocent man," said Alesha Odums, Jacobs' aunt. "Justice has failed today. There is no one in custody, but there has been a death. We need justice."

The Rev. Al Sharpton announced this week he's heading to Clearwater, Fla. Aug. 5 for a rally at St. John Primitive Baptist Church. He's calling for an independent investigation into McGlockton's death.

## New Jersey News

### Outrage continues over police shooting of unarmed Black man in Vineland

By CYRIL JOSH BARKER  
Amsterdam News Staff

Rashaun Washington is the third unarmed Black man fatally shot by officers from the Vineland Police Department since 2016, and residents are saying enough is enough. Washington was shot on the morning of July 21 when police responded to a report of a shirtless man "acting suspiciously" on the front porch of a home. While it was not clear at the time what exchange police and Washington had, the ordeal ended with officers firing three times, according to witnesses, killing Washington.

Last week, the Vineland Police Department released the transcript of the 911 call that came in reporting Washington. The department also released body cam video of the incident. The officer who fired has been identified as Sgt. Brian Armstrong. On the phone call a 911 operator transferred the call to a country dispatcher. The caller said they saw "a Black dude, he's sitting there" on the porch of a home that wasn't his. The caller also said Washington looked like he was "on something." The caller said Washington was not wearing a shirt and did not have a weapon. However, the dispatcher noted that Washington "has something under his white shirt and is stating for police to 'shoot him/kill him' once police arrived" and that the "male subject is reporting to officers on location that he has an explosive device that will take him...out." Body cam footage shows officers arriving on scene asking Washington to stay calm. Police said Washington was holding something wrapped in his shirt and they ordered him to put it down. Washington then moved toward the officers before they opened fire. The item Washington had wrapped in his shirt was later found to be 8-inch garden shears. Since the killing, demonstrators have taken to the streets to condemn the shooting. One major rally took place last Thursday in Vineland.

"They didn't have to shoot him," Washington's mother, Georgette, said at the rally. "They could have tazed him. Or did anything. He never had no bomb. He didn't have nothing. And in the broad daylight, they said, they're gonna have to kill him, and that's what they wanted to do."

### Remains of NJ Tuskegee Airman reunited with family

By CYRIL JOSH BARKER  
Amsterdam News Staff

A more than 74-year-old mystery is now solved as the remains of a Tuskegee Airman were found and reunited with his family in East Orange, N.J.

Captain Lawrence Dixon was killed in 1944 during World War II at age 24 in Italy when his plane went down. Marla Lawrence Dixon Andrews, 76, was just 15 months old when her father was killed and never got the chance to know him or visit his grave. Remains of Dixon were

found by archaeologists in Austria and analyzed.

"I was very relieved because it just felt like the weight on my back...I think they closed down the whole case in 1948. I think because they didn't dream either that the DNA could ever evolve into what it has," said Marla.

The remains are being returned to Andrews so she can give her father a proper burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

"I feel great! I really do feel a relief...I had a good crying jag," Marla said in one report. "Something I never dreamt of. I'm very happy about it."

**"They didn't have to shoot him."**



Reproduced with permission of copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.