

Image taken by Huy Mach

### ***Black Lives Matter***

Once I was dragged and beat by the police and detained because they are the police and “they can do what they want”.

It’s been an epidemic of killings starting with Trayvon Martin. Michael Brown was just starting his life. The officer said he would not obey his order to stop. I have a deep fear of the police as most blacks do. My fear developed over the years from different times I was stopped and detained. We came together and wanted black to love black, to live black, to buy black. Black Lives Matter is not just about the killing of black people by police and vigilantes. Black Lives Matter is taking social media into the streets. The call is a rallying cry for change, and liberation for all blacks.

The pain that this mother bears is just too much. I don't want anyone to bear that much!!!

**- Deborah**

This project was supported by San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Office of Diversity and Equity. Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63).





### ***Black Lives Matter***

For many people seeing a police car represents safety, security, authority, protection, service, bravery, lawfulness, and help is near... For me as a Black Man in America seeing a police car represents something completely different. For me as a Black Man in America, I see hatred, danger, injustice, cowardice, lawlessness and there's a threat nearby... For me as a Black Man in America I see fear, anxiety, sleepless nights, senseless killings, crying mothers, rallies and protest for justice... For me as a Black Man in America, I see *paid* administrative leave, "justifiable use of force", and acquittal after acquittal after acquittal... For me as a Black Man in America I no longer see "To Protect and Serve", today I see "To Profile and Harass", "To Oppress and Brutalize", and "To Harm and Kill"... For me As a Black Man in America I see my life flash before my eyes!!!!

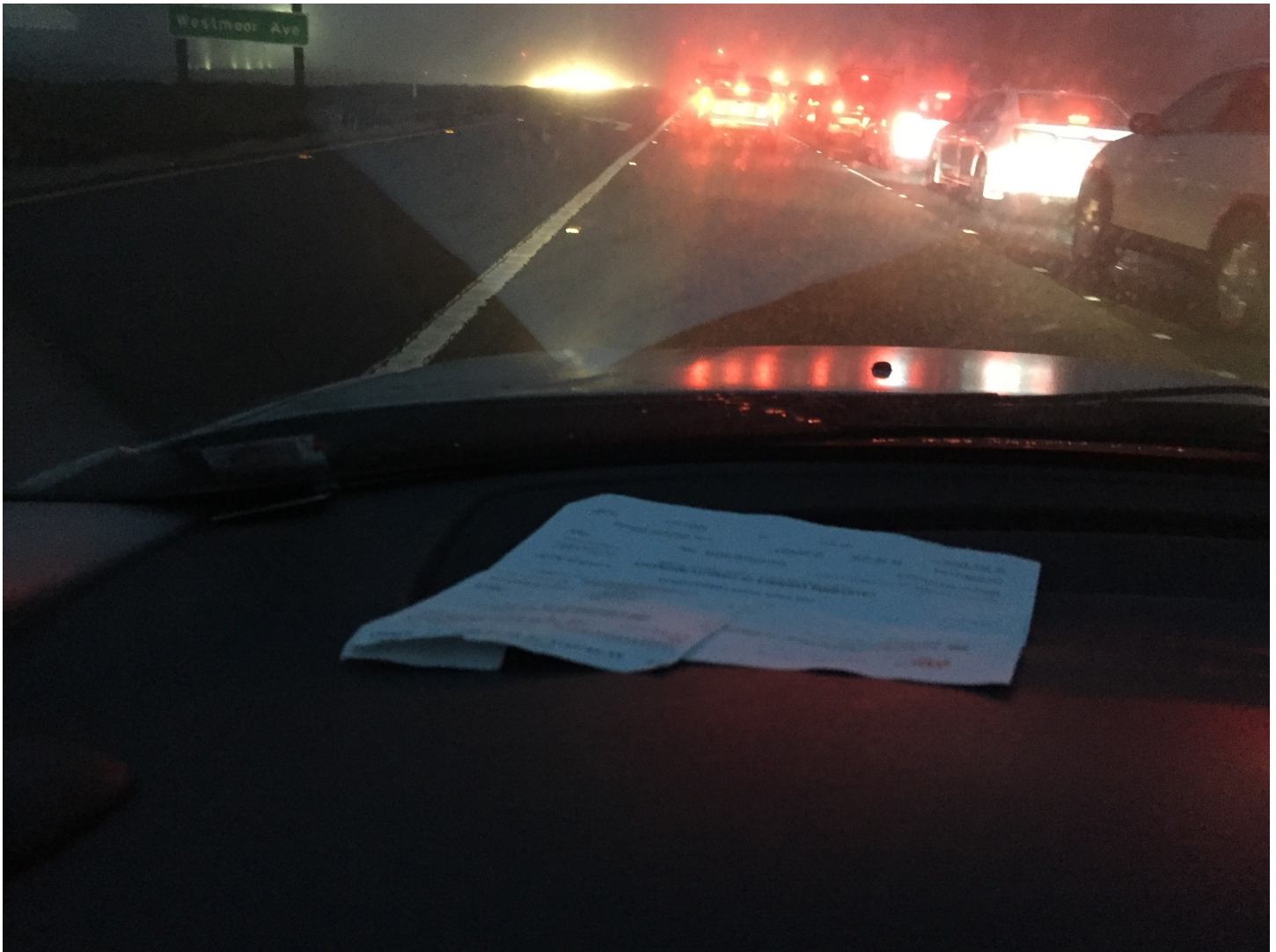
BlackLivesMatter

***- Jan***

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### ***Black Lives Matter***

Do I even matter if I have to place my license and registration on the dashboard?

I have been placing my license and registration on the dashboard for 7 months. Everyday I asked myself: how do I know the next time I get pulled over, if I will survive? Alton, Philando, Sandra and countless others didn't? Getting in the car became a chore, constantly looking for my license and registration became a part of my routine. I couldn't sleep, I lost track of time, my anxiety increased. As I sat on the couch crying to a stranger about how scared I felt, she couldn't offer help because "you can't change society." But talking to someone about this felt better somehow. But to this day I place my license and registration on the dashboard because there are no promises.

***- Renesha***

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### ***Black Lives Matter***

We cant go nowhere without being harassed. There's nowhere to go. There's racial things going on. They bother everyone who's black. They know we have nowhere to go. We sit there at the bus stop waiting for the shelter to open. They run your name and if you're on probation they want to search you. They have nothing else better to do than to bother African American people right now.

That guy on the street was just riding his bicycle, not bothering no-one. I wanted to take a picture of them to show racial profiling because of black history month—that man was bothering no-one.

They hugged me and took me across the street, and gave me a ticket. They wanted to take my camera away, but I told them I'm showing racial profiling for black history month.

I have anxiety all the time. I'm scared that they might come back and put something on me for taking this picture—maybe even give me a bunk charge.

**- Vickie**

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### ***Black Lives Matter***

Look at the floor in there, it's nasty. That's the bathroom at my shelter. They do the most they can do, the men use the women's bathroom and they go in there and puke all on the floor.

This is the hallway where the shelves are at with our belongings. They knew this was my stuff, they tagged it and put it on the floor, and once you don't claim it, they'll throw it away. If I didn't see this they would've just thrown my blanket away or somebody else would've had it.

She's very rude. Very rude. Very rude. Every time I think about the girl... She thinks she's better than other people, and she's not. It really bothers me because, ever since I got there, it has always been a problem with me and her.

I'm on sleep meds. We don't go to bed until around 9 or 10 o'clock. I take them because of my nightmares about my mom and sister being caught in the fire. I'm the only one who made it. I'm tired of the shelter, I want my own place to feel comfortable, wash my clothes, and just get a nice amount of sleep. I've been in the shelter for 4 years.

**- Vickie**

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### ***Black Lives Matter***

There is where everyone sits at in front of McDonald's. We just sit here and hang out. The police bother them too. These are the averages customers at McDonalds every day. They are my associates—people that I know.

This place is really comfortable for me, it's where I relax.

“If y'all not catching the bus or coming back, we're going to give you a ticket for loitering.”

We had leave the shelter at 6AM, and we couldn't come back until 4:30PM. It's raining outside, the library opens at 10 o'clock, and I don't want to go hang out at McDonalds.

The police don't want us to be nowhere. We no allowed in McDonalds without buying something. We can't use the bathroom without buying something. That makes me feel very uncomfortable. I be sad all the time, I'm sad now. If I don't take my medication, I'll be sad all day.

**- Vickie**

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### ***Black Lives Matter***

They gave me a ticket for paraphernalia saying I was “interfering with justice”. Me being on search and seizure, they could search me, without a woman cop in my presence. I requested a woman cop. They did it anyways.

This reminds me of a couple of weeks ago. Two men cop came, they ran my name, and said they want to search me. I told them, “no, get a woman cop”, and I walked away.

That was it.

**- Vickie**

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