

Aug. 9., 2014

Michael Brown Is Shot

Michael Brown, 18, is shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo. According to reports, Mr. Brown was walking down the middle of Canfield Drive with a friend, Dorian Johnson, when the officer stopped his Chevy Tahoe to order them to the sidewalk. Within seconds, the encounter turned into a physical struggle, as the officer and Mr. Brown became entangled through the open driver-side window of the police vehicle. How that encounter began is in dispute, though most accounts agree that shots were fired while the officer was in the vehicle. At some point, Mr. Brown broke away. The officer then got out of the vehicle and fired at Mr. Brown, whose actions at this point are also in dispute. Some witnesses later said that Mr. Brown appeared to be surrendering with his hands in the air as he was hit with the fatal gunshots. Others say that Mr. Brown was moving toward the officer when he was killed. What is not in dispute is that Mr. Brown was unarmed. His body would lie in the street for four hours.

Aug. 10, 2014

Angry Residents Take to the Streets

Residents outraged by the shooting take to the streets, and a portion of West Florissant Avenue becomes a staging area for protests. “Hands up, don’t shoot” and “No justice, no peace” become rallying cries. As early protests turn increasingly violent, the police respond with heavy-handed tactics—including military-style weapons and equipment—that seem only to ratchet up the unrest. Eventually, both sides would make efforts to reduce the tension of the protests, which continued daily.

Aug. 11, 2014
F.B.I. Opens Civil Rights Investigation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation opens a civil rights inquiry into the shooting of Mr. Brown.

Aug. 14, 2014

A State Trooper Steps In

Hours after President Obama denounces the actions of both police and protesters in Ferguson, Gov. Jay Nixon orders the Missouri State Highway Patrol to take over security operations. Alarm has been rising across the country at images of a mostly white police force, in a predominantly African-American community, aiming military-style weapons at protesters and firing tear gas and rubber bullets. Appointed by Mr. Nixon, Capt. Ronald S. Johnson of the highway patrol immediately signals a change in approach. Troopers are ordered to remove tear-gas masks while armored vehicles and police cars are taken away.

The tactics work for a short time before unrest returns. A curfew is later imposed. At times, Governor Nixon is jeered or shouted down as he tries to reassure residents and urge an end to the violence.

Aug. 15, 2014

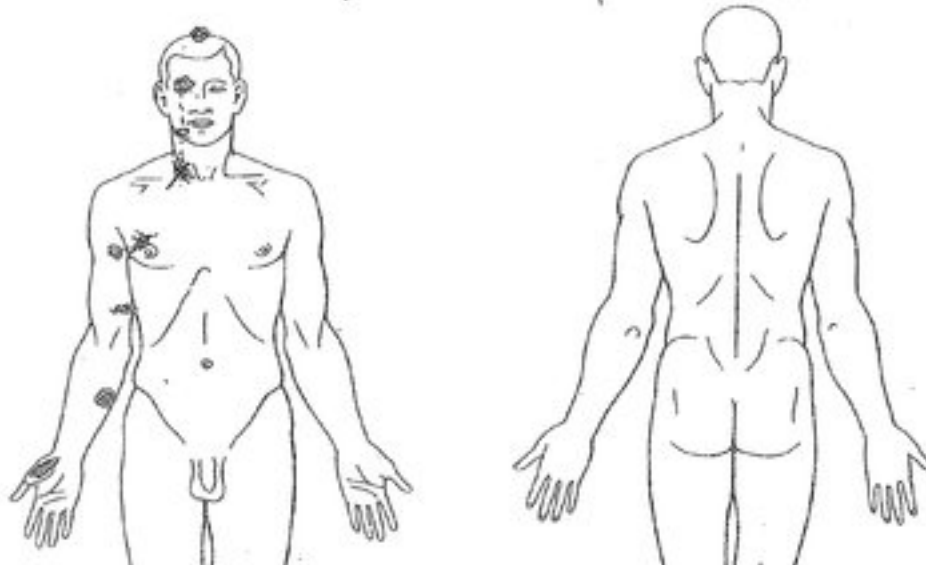
Officer Involved in Shooting Is Identified

Almost a week after the shooting of Mr. Brown, the officer who shot him is identified as Darren Wilson, who has five years of police experience. The release of the name is followed by series of incomplete accounts by Thomas Jackson, the Ferguson police chief. These accounts sowed confusion about whether Officer Wilson knew that the teenager was a suspect in a robbery at a local convenience store that took place moments before the shooting.

Aug. 17, 2014

Brown's Family Releases Autopsy Details

*Entry, re-entry and exit perforations,
Preliminary autopsy report*



A preliminary private autopsy shows that Mr. Brown was shot at least six times, including twice in the head. Dr. Michael M. Baden, a former chief New York City medical examiner who conducted the autopsy for the family, says one bullet entered the top of Mr. Brown's skull, suggesting that his head was bent forward when it struck him and caused a fatal injury. Dr. Baden says Mr. Brown was also shot four times in the right arm, and that all the bullets were fired into his front. This is the first time that some of the critical information resulting in Mr. Brown's death has been made public, but the release of the preliminary autopsy results does little to explain the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Aug. 18, 2014

National Guard Is Ordered to Ferguson

After a curfew fails to quiet the streets, Governor Nixon brings in the National Guard, though in the limited role of protecting the police command post. Hours later, he lifts the curfew. The National Guard is ordered to withdraw in four days.

Aug. 19, 2014

Accounts of Shooting Differ

As a county grand jury prepared to hear evidence, witnesses interviewed by investigators provide sharply conflicting accounts of the shooting. Some seem to agree on how the fatal altercation initially unfolded: with a struggle between Officer Wilson and Mr. Brown. Officer Wilson was inside his patrol car at the time, while Mr. Brown, who was unarmed, was leaning in through an open window. Many witnesses also agreed on what happened next: Officer Wilson's firearm went off inside the car, Mr. Brown ran away, the officer got out of his car and began firing toward Mr. Brown, and then Mr. Brown stopped and turned to face the officer. But accounts of the crucial moments that followed differ sharply. Some witnesses say that Mr. Brown moved toward Officer Wilson, possibly in a threatening manner, when he was shot. Others say that Mr. Brown was not moving and that he might have even had his hands up.

Aug. 20, 2014

Protesters Descend on Ferguson

Driven in part by posts on Twitter and other social media outlets, protesters from across the country descend on Ferguson, transforming a purely local protest into a center of national activism. The new protesters include rap and hip-hop stars as well as veterans of the Occupy Wall Street movement. While they are welcomed by some in Ferguson, others are deeply suspicious of their motives and question their behavior.

Attorney General Arrives and Promises Full Inquiry

Promising a full and fair investigation, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. arrives in St. Louis to meet with community leaders and federal investigators. While in Missouri, he tries to reassure Ferguson residents about the investigation into Michael Brown's death and says he understands why many black Americans do not trust the police. While he promises a full inquiry, Mr. Holder also tries to temper expectations that charges will be filed.

Aug. 25, 2014

Mourning and Calls for Action at Brown's Funeral

Thousands pay their respects to Mr. Brown. Infused with Scripture and song, the funeral is a mix of intimate reflections and national policy plans. Relatives reminisce in choked voices about Mr. Brown's wide smile as a picture from his high school graduation flashes on two wide screens, Leaders urge those gathered to memorialize his life by carrying forward a vocal, strong and unified effort to seek change across the country.

Sept. 3 2014

Justice Department Opens Inquiry

The Justice Department announces that it will open a broad civil rights investigation that will examine whether the Ferguson police have a history of discrimination or misuse of force beyond the Michael Brown case. The inquiry is in addition to the F.B.I. civil rights investigation that is looking specifically into the shooting of Mr. Brown.

Sept 8, 2014

Ferguson Leaders Try to Reach Out

Responding to complaints that the Ferguson police are out of touch with the African-American community, the City Council agrees to establish a citizen review board to provide guidance. In addition, the council announces sweeping changes to its court system, which had been criticized as unfairly targeting low-income blacks, who had become trapped in a cycle of unpaid tickets and arrest warrants. Young black men in Ferguson and surrounding cities routinely find themselves passed from jail to jail as they are picked up on warrants for unpaid fines, one of the many simmering issues in the city.

Sept. 25, 2014

Ferguson Police Chief Apologizes

Thomas Jackson, the Ferguson police chief, issues a stark apology to the family of Michael Brown, saying in a videotaped statement that he was sorry for the death of Mr. Brown and for the four hours that his body lay in the street after he was fatally shot. “I want to say this to the Brown family. No one who has not experienced the loss of a child can understand what you’re feeling,” he said, facing the camera and standing in front of an American flag. “I am truly sorry for the loss of your son. I’m also sorry that it took so long to remove Michael from the street. The time that it took involved very important work on the part of investigators who were trying to collect evidence and gain a true picture of what happened that day. But it was just too long, and I’m truly sorry for that.”

Oct. 3, 2014

A Shift in Police Oversight of Protests

The St. Louis County Police Department takes control of security surrounding protests in Ferguson, Mo. Chief Thomas Jackson of the Ferguson Police Department asked the county to step in, citing a “lack of manpower and resources” at the disposal of the relatively small Ferguson police force, said Brian Schellman, a spokesman for the county police. The Ferguson police had been criticized for their heavy-handed tactics in dealing with protesters.

Oct. 8, 2014

Call for Review of Police Tactics and Training

Speaking to mayors and police chiefs gathered in Little Rock, AR, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. says the Justice Department is working with major police associations to conduct a broad review of policing tactics, techniques and training. The review is intended to “help the field swiftly confront emerging threats, better address persistent challenges, and thoroughly examine the latest tools and technologies to enhance the safety and the effectiveness of law enforcement.”

Oct. 9, 2014

Criticism of the Use of Military-Style Equipment by Police

Images of violent clashes between officers in full body armor, with military-style equipment, pointing guns at residents in Ferguson protesting the shooting of Michael Brown, leads to calls for the demilitarization of local police forces around the country. At a Senate hearing in Washington, the Department of Homeland Security tried to ease criticism of the program by reminding lawmakers that the use of the equipment had been instrumental in the capture of suspects after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Oct. 11-13, 2014

A 'Weekend of Resistance'

Thousands of people take part in events around the St. Louis area to protest the killing of Mr. Brown and to raise awareness of police treatment of African-Americans. During one event, some younger protesters, part of a group that had appeared night after night for sometimes rowdy protests, called out to the older faces on the stage, criticizing older activists for not being radical enough. During one protest, Cornell William Brooks, the president of the N.A.A.C.P., and the professor and author Cornel West were among 43 people arrested outside the Ferguson Police Department.

Oct. 17, 2014

Policeman Offers His Account

Police Officer Darren Wilson, who fatally shot Mr. Brown, tells investigators that he was pinned in his vehicle and in fear for his life as he struggled over his gun with Mr. Brown, said government officials briefed on the federal civil rights investigation. Officer Wilson, in the first public account of his testimony, says that Mr. Brown reached for the gun during a scuffle. The gun was fired twice in the car. Officer Wilson told the authorities that Mr. Brown had punched and scratched him repeatedly, leaving swelling on his face and cuts on his neck. The officer's version contradicts some witness accounts, and does not explain why, after he emerged from his vehicle, he fired at Mr. Brown multiple times.

Nov. 17, 2014

Governor Activates National Guard

Gov. Jay Nixon declares a state of emergency, allowing him to activate the Missouri National Guard in preparation for the grand jury's decision on whether to indict Officer Wilson. He also mobilized the National Guard in August. The declaration adds to the mounting tension over the announcement of the decision, which officials maintain is expected in mid- to late November. At this point, many in Ferguson say they expect the grand jury to decide against indicting the Ferguson officer, Darren Wilson, and they anticipate a show of anger and protest afterward. Some protesters say that calling up the Guard before a grand jury decision was an antagonistic move that presumed that demonstrations would be violent. "My hope and expectation is that peace will prevail," Mr. Nixon said after announcing the decision. "But I have a responsibility to plan for any contingency that might arise."

Nov. 24, 2014

No Charges Against Ferguson Officer in Michael Brown Shooting

The grand jury decided to not indict Darren Wilson. Protesters have been mobilizing for weeks and the St. Louis area in general has been cloaked in anxiety for months as it has waited for a decision by the grand jury, which is made up of nine whites and three blacks.

Reference: Tracking the Events in the Wake of Michael Brown's Shooting, New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/11/09/us/10ferguson-michael-brown-shooting-grand-jury-darren-wilson.html>