

**November 23, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Family of Fallen Officer Brandon Shirley Seeks Answers, Offers Reward**

*Brandon's father, Brian Shirley, will be available for questioning today at 3 p.m.*

*Location: 1900 Plantside Drive, Louisville, KY 40299*

The family of fallen police officer Brandon Shirley knows nothing more today than they did in August about Brandon's murder. The lead detective refuses to speak with them, so they are now asking for the public to help in demanding transparency and answers.

At approximately 2:30 am August 5, Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Shirley was shot while working off-duty security at Rockford Lane Auto Sales. The assailants fled the scene. Brandon died at the hospital from his injuries.

The same day, LMPD's Chief Shields told the public that Brandon had been "targeted and ambushed." Chief Shields then made a bold, public guarantee that there would be an arrest. But now, more than three months later, there has not been any public arrest. And the family has been told conflicting stories by detectives that have been confusing and frustrating, rather than informative.

At first, the family, like the public, was advised that Brandon was targeted and ambushed. Investigators told the Shirley family that there was good video footage confirming this, which would make sense given that the location is surrounded by cameras. The family was given specifics that Brandon was ambushed by individuals approaching his windows and that they shot Brandon inside his truck.

The family was subsequently advised that Brandon's murder was possible part of a robbery.

Then the family was told that it was possibly part of a carjacking.

Most recently, Brandon's family was advised by detectives that Brandon's death may have been part of an accidental shooting.

Obviously, Brandon's family has legitimate questions as to why the story has gone from "a targeted ambush captured on video" to an "accidental shooting." But in each of these conversations, the family was given no information or rationale for the changed stories. The family is frustrated and confused. They need for detectives to make it make sense.

But instead of getting more information, the Shirley family was recently told by the lead detective on the case that the family is no longer permitted to contact him. Seriously. The Shirley family was told that they could no longer contact the member of the police department who is assigned to investigate and solve Brandon Shirley's murder.

The Shirley family, like so many other families who are left in the dark as to why their loved ones were killed, just wants answers. They don't want special treatment because their son was a police officer. But they do want this case solved and they do want transparency in the process. They do not want this to become a situation like the tragic murder of Jason Ellis, where the public and the family have been left in the dark since 2013 while detectives remain silent.

In Louisville, the administration made a commitment to promptly release video of officer involved shootings. This has been their promise for more than 5 years. This has been the specific protocol with LMPD's Public Integrity Unit, which is the same unit that is handling Brandon's murder. While there may not be body camera footage of Brandon's murder, there is footage that was captured from several nearby cameras. None of this footage has been released to the public or to Brandon's family. It is unacceptable that, in a case where a police officer was killed, the city has broken their policy and public promise to release video footage.

The longer the family is left in the dark, the more the family becomes concerned that there is a cover up of some sorts taking place. If the detectives are truly working on behalf of the Shirley family to get justice for their fallen son, then they had better stop leaving the family out to dry. This should be the case for all parents suffering from the loss of a murdered loved one; they deserve to know what happened and why they had to bury their child.

To local members of law enforcement: the Shirley family is eternally grateful for your service. They ask for you to put yourselves in their shoes. If you lost a loved one, would you be ok with getting no answers? Would you be ok with being told you could not talk to the lead detective? Would you be ok with getting three different reasons for your loved one's death, with the story starting with "video evidence confirming a targeted ambush" and then evolving into "accidental shooting." The family asks for each of you to insist on more transparency in the investigation into the death of their son. No family, let alone the family of a police officer, should be shut out for months as to why their loved one was killed. Please support the Shirley family in their efforts to get answers.

To the public: there are rewards that have been announced publicly for information. The Shirley family is now adding \$10,000 to that amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Brandon's killer(s). There are links on [Brandonshirley.com](http://Brandonshirley.com) for tips to be directed. The Shirley family is grateful for any and all information.

The process of working with families to solve homicides should not be adversarial. Detectives should not view it as a burden. They should not advise families to not contact them. They should not keep families in the dark. The Shirley family deserves better here. So do all other families having to go through this.

The Shirley family has asked for Sam Aguiar to assist with emphasizing the need for more transparency on this case. The Shirley family and Sam are not pursuing any formal legal action at this time related to this case.

Mr. Shirley will be at the office of Sam Aguiar today at 3 pm to field any questions and discuss these issues further.