

D'Andre Campbell, December 17 1993 - April 6, 2020, 26 years old

D'Andre Anthony Campbell was born on December 17, 1993 to Yvonne and Claudius Campbell. One of six children, D'Andre, often called Dion by family and friends, lived with his family in Brampton, Ontario. Their home as "a boisterous place, filled with love, music and [D'Andre's] heavy footsteps - he was the only one who wore his shoes inside the house." D'Andre loved spaghetti, lasagna, and ice cream.

His sister Michelle remembered: "He always said that, like, if I win the lottery, I'm gonna buy a car. I'm gonna buy a big house, you know? He always lived outside the box. He never looked at anything in a negative way." His sister Shanice described him as "a homebody. He wouldn't go out to parties or anything. He would go to the convenience store and come back home, spend most of his time at home. And he loved music." Anthony Powell, his best friend since middle school, said, "He was a bright young kid... That kid who always had his hand up in class, no matter what the teacher's question was."

D'Andre lived with schizophrenia since his diagnosis at 17 when his family noticed he had become quiet and withdrawn; different from his usual happy, fun-loving self. An article from CP24 with his family continues:

*"He got very paranoid, so I knew something was off" Yvonne Campbell said. Doctors prescribed him medication and he lived the vast majority of his life symptom-free - smiling, laughing and listening to music.*

*He worked for four years at a company's shipping and receiving department and was doing well for a time... but at some point he 'got a little edgy' and was given some time off. He returned briefly to work, then stopped. "I didn't really pressure him to work because I know his situation," his mother said. "I'd rather he be home."*

*The young man became a homebody, only leaving to go to the store, buy lottery tickets or to celebrate his birthday in mid-December at his favourite restaurant, Mandarin. He felt safe in his home, the family says, and often did not go on vacation with them.*

*The family says they called 911 on several occasions in the past when D'Andre hit a "peak" which usually indicated his medication was no longer working. "He'd be back and forth, wouldn't sit down and always thought there was something there... Calling 911 was the only way we can get him to see a doctor, he*

*willingly won't want to go, so we have to call police and then he'll go" Michelle Campbell said. "He'd spend a few days in hospital and then be fine."*

Anosognosia, a neurological condition where a person experiencing an illness or other condition is unaware they are experiencing it, is common in schizophrenia, and often contributes to a person's hesitance to seek treatment, especially at a time when they are already feeling extremely fearful for their safety due to delusions. Hospitalization is a common treatment for schizophrenia, and repeated involuntary hospitalizations are associated with a fear of forced treatment.

On the evening of April 6, 2020, D'Andre was experiencing a mental health crisis and called 911 to request help with an argument he said his parents were trying to start. Peel Regional Police officers arrived at the Campbell residence at 5:34pm and were let in by Yvonne who informed them that there had been an argument. The officers were made aware that D'Andre was schizophrenic before they arrived. Police had attended the home in the past when D'Andre had been off his medication and had shown aggression towards his family. Despite this, the officers did not spend any time planning how they would approach D'Andre before confronting him.

The names of the officers involved have not been released. Details of investigations into police conduct by oversight agencies, such as Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU), generally do not include the names of the individuals involved, both in regard to civilians and the responding officers. D'Andre's sister, Michelle, said later that both officers looked "roughly my age category [29 years old]. No older than me."

When Yvonne and the officers entered the kitchen, D'Andre was standing on the other side of the kitchen island holding a kitchen knife he had picked up while his mother was speaking to the officers at the door. His father and two of his younger sisters were also in the kitchen when the police arrived, and witnessed the events that followed.

Upon seeing the knife, the officers immediately pulled out their tasers and repeatedly ordered D'Andre to drop the knife, rather than attempting to deescalate the situation. D'Andre did not drop the knife, and soon after, one officer fired their taser twice at D'Andre and attempted to physically restrain him where he fell. As D'Andre and the officer struggled on the ground, the second officer fired their taser once, but the SIU report said evidence suggested this hit the other officer, rather than D'Andre. D'Andre and the first officer separated soon after and stood up, D'Andre still holding the knife. Both officers drew their guns, and seconds later, the officer who first tased D'Andre then shot him twice in the abdomen. D'Andre collapsed to the floor, where the officers began administering first aid and contacted paramedics. The attending paramedics were

unsuccessful in resuscitating D'Andre and he was pronounced dead at the scene, at 6:01pm.

The SIU report, released on December 3, 2020, pointed out the officers' lack of preparation, saying:

*“[T]he conduct of the [officers] in the lead-up to the encounter with Mr. Campbell is in some ways subject to legitimate criticism. Though they knew that Mr. Campbell suffered from mental illness and was likely in an agitated condition, they did not confer with each other about the approach they would take once inside the home. Thus, there was no talk of how they would react in the face of various contingencies, such as who between them would take the lead in dealing with Mr. Campbell or how de-escalation might be pursued should the need present itself. Whether those conversations would have made a difference to the outcome is speculation, but the officers' failure to have that discussion limited their ability to consider alternative strategies. Moreover, once in the kitchen, the [officer who shot D'Andre] immediately began to order Mr. Campbell to put the knife down. At no point was there any effort made to verbally calm Mr. Campbell.”*

The report also noted that although the other attending officer told investigators that D'Andre took “one or two deliberate steps forward” before he was shot, both of D'Andre's sisters who witnessed his death said he was standing still, with his arms at his sides. The report also notes that what the officers perceived as D'Andre approaching them may have been general unsteadiness due to having been tasered repeatedly, stating, “there is some evidence to reasonably conclude that Mr. Campbell had not in fact advanced upon the [officer] when he was shot.” Nonetheless, the report concluded that the officer who shot D'Andre acted lawfully and there was no basis for proceeding with criminal charges.

D'Andre's father, Claudius, told Global “He called Peel police for help, and they came here and crucified him... two minutes in the house and two gunshots to his chest.” Yvonne Campbell said “It's very hard for me — stressful, heartbroken. Like every day of my life is in misery to know I can't see my son anymore.” The Global News article continues:

*“They need to make a lot of changes. They shouldn't be sending police with guns for a mental issue. They should be sending properly trained people with an ambulance. They shouldn't be putting (them) in handcuffs and tucking them in a*

*police car to bring them into hospital,” said Claudius. “They murder my son in his house - in his own house, in front of his mother - that’s crazy,” said Yvonne.*

*D’Andre’s family said they believe his race may have been a factor in his death . “It (Racism) exists. Look at us. They killed him in his house and they say it doesn’t exist in Canada. We’re proof it exists. When they see us, what do they see? Do we not look like human beings? I just want to ask, what do we look like when they see us? Because at this point, we don’t feel like human beings. Shoot first and ask questions last, and this is the result. They traumatized a generation of his family for the rest of their lives. We are traumatized.” said D’Andre’s aunt, Nicole.*

In his statement following the release of the SIU report, Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah acknowledged: “There are gaps in the human services systems that must be addressed or we will face similar tragic circumstances again in the future.” Peel Regional police launched Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams in 2020, pairing crisis workers with police officers. However, under current legislation, police officers are the only ones who can apprehend a person in crisis and take them to the hospital.

The Peel Regional Police also introduced a \$1.4 million plan in June 2020 to implement officer body-worn cameras (BWC) across their force to increase accountability. However, this drew criticism from community members due to the cost, the ability of officers to turn the cameras off, and that use of BWCs in the USA has not been shown to make a difference in police behaviour.

On December 11, 2020, families of people killed by Peel Regional Police officers protested outside the 11 Division headquarters in Toronto. In addition to D’Andre’s family, the families of Jamal Francique and Ejaz Choudry were also in attendance. Jamal Francique, 28, was shot and killed by undercover Peel police officers during an attempted arrest on January 7, 2020 for suspected drug activity. Ehaz Choudry, 62, was experiencing a mental health crisis due to schizophrenia, and was tasered and shot by Peel police officers after his family called a non-emergency line because they were concerned he wasn't taking his medication.

In loving memory of D’Andre Anthony Campbell.

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