



DOUGLAS / HICKS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

5120 W. Goldleaf Circle, Suite 140, Los Angeles, CA 90056

Phone: (323) 655-6505 / Fax: (323) 927-1941

www.DouglasHicksLaw.com

January 19, 2023

Via Personal Service

City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
200 N Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

BY
CITY CLERK
2023 JAN 19 AM 11:52
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Sir/Madame:

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES PURSUANT TO CAL. GOVERNMENT CODE ' 910, et seq.

A. **The name and address of the claimants are as follows:**

Gabrielle Hansell (“Ms. Hansell”), as Guardian *ad litem* to S.K.A., a five-year-old minor boy, and Gabrielle Hansell, (“Ms. Hansell”) as Administratrix of the Estate of Keenan Darnell Anderson, C/O Carl E. Douglas, DOUGLAS / HICKS LAW, 5120 W. Goldleaf Circle, Suite 140, Los Angeles, CA. 90056-1661.

B. **The Post Office Address to which the persons presenting the Claim desires notice to be sent:**

Carl E. Douglas, Esq., DOUGLAS / HICKS LAW, 5120 W. Goldleaf Circle, Suite 140, Los Angeles, CA. 90056-1661. Ben Crump, Esq., BEN CRUMP LAW, 122 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (*Pro Hac Vice* pending.)

C. **The date, place and other circumstances of the occurrence or transaction which gave rise to the claim asserted:**

On or about January 3, 2023, at about 3:30 p.m., at or near the intersection of Lincoln Blvd. just north of Venice Ave. in Los Angeles, California, Keenan Darnell Anderson (“Mr. Anderson”) is approached by several unknown Los Angeles Police Officers, who are employed by the City of Los Angeles (the “City”), working within the course and scope of their employment with the City, who are apparently investigating his possible connection to a nearby traffic collision. The Claimants are informed and believe that none of officers has ever seen Mr. Anderson before in their lives. The officers know nothing about him, and have no reason to suspect that he is then creating a serious threat to any one’s physical safety. The officers see Anderson laying on the ground as they begin touching him trying to detain him.

During the course of this effort to detain Mr. Anderson, the officers engage in a physical struggle with Anderson threatening to hit, strike and tase him. In fact, the officers in fact grab, compress, and tase Mr. Anderson in the back of his heart at least six times in rapid succession. Each taser charge sent 50,000 watts of electrical energy into Mr. Anderson’s body. Other officers press Mr. Anderson body against the hardened street surface as they struggle to pull his arms behind his back. Mr. Anderson’s efforts to struggle for air and squiring in response to the unlawful application of taser force, are misinterpreted as evidence of his active resistance. As a result of

this unlawful assault and battery, Mr. Anderson sustains serious injury and damages to his mind and body, and four and one-half hours later dies as a result of the injuries and damages he sustained at the hands of the LAPD police officers.

The Claimants are informed and believe, that when they first come upon Mr. Anderson prior to the physical altercation, it was clear, or through the exercise of reasonable skill, training and experience should have been clear, that Mr. Anderson was then at worse, merely involved in a minor traffic collision. He was not then suspected of being a serious threat of death or serious bodily injury to any other person. In fact several of the officers were unaware of any crime Mr. Anderson was then suspected of committing.

The City of Los Angeles failed to properly train the involved officers based on standards taught at the Peace Officers Standards and Training program on the alternative ways of detaining citizens, rather than by using unreasonable deadly force. Alternatively, each of the involved officers failed to implement the training they had received from the City concerning ways of detaining citizens rather than by using unreasonable deadly force.

The Claimants also allege that each of the unknown involved Police officers negligently, carelessly, and mistakenly investigated the presence of Mr. Anderson as they were investigating his connection to a minor traffic collision, and negligently concluded that Mr. Anderson posed a threat to their safety, necessitating the repeated use of a taser against him.

Alternatively, each of the unknown involved Police officers who were present negligently, carelessly, and mistakenly activated a taser repeatedly against Mr. Anderson's body. The taser then sends 50,000 watts of electrical energy into Mr. Anderson's body which was a substantial factor leading to his death

Mr. Anderson did nothing to justify this use of serious and unreasonable force against him. He was unarmed when officers attempted to detain him, and had not posed any reasonable threat of serious bodily injury to each of the unknown involved police officers, or any other person, so as to justify this use of unreasonable deadly force against him. He was merely suspected of potentially being involved in a minor traffic collision, when the officers first approached him. He was not suspected of having committed violence against any person. The officers far outnumbered him, and were better trained and equipped to detain and handcuff him without having to tase him at least six times in rapid succession in the back of his heart.

The sheer number of taser activations suggests the officer intended to inflict unnecessary pain as Mr. Anderson yelled the cops were "Trying to George Floyd" him as they struggled to detain him. Consequently, the officers' use of unreasonable force under these circumstances was intentionally malicious, oppressive, and despicable, and/or with a deliberate indifference to Mr. Anderson's rights and safety, justifying the imposition of punitive damages against the individual officers, all in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

Mr. Anderson was an African American male. The Claimants are informed and believe that because of implicit bias, each of the unknown involved police officers assumed Mr. Anderson presented a serious threat to someone's safety, and then assaulted, battered and tased him at least six times in response. Consequently, the Claimants are informed and believe that Mr. Anderson had not posed any objectively reasonable threat to anyone, but was grabbed, compressed against the hardened surface, and repeatedly tased on account of his African American race. Accordingly, each of the unknown involved Police officers' use of unreasonable force under these circumstances was calculated, intentional, excessive, and unlawful, malicious, oppressive, and/or with a deliberate indifference to Mr. Anderson's rights and safety, justifying the imposition of punitive damages against the individual Police officers, all in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

The Claimants are informed and believe that Mr. Anderson did not die immediately after being assaulted, battered, and tased. After the assault and battery ended, it was clear, or through the exercise of reasonable skill, training, and experience should have been clear, that Mr. Anderson was then in need of immediate medical attention. Nevertheless, each of the involved police officers who were present at the scene of the interaction, wrongfully, intentionally, and/or with a deliberate indifference to Mr. Anderson's rights and safety, failed to immediately summon medical assistance to the scene to attend to his injuries. This delay reflects a conscious disregard for Mr. Anderson's health and safety, and was a substantial factor causing his death.

At all relevant times mentioned here, each of the unknown involved police officers described above, was an agent, servant, or employee of the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police's Department, was working under color of law, and was working within the course and scope of that agency, service, or employment with the City of Los Angeles.

The Claimants also contend that the City of Los Angeles negligently trained these police officers as to the appropriate circumstances and techniques to deploy when using nonlethal force, including tasers, leading to the actions and failures to act as alleged here. In addition, the City negligently trained the police officers concerning the risks and dangers of positional or compressional asphyxiation. Alternatively, each of the officers failed to follow the training they were given as to the proper use of tasers, as well as the dangers of positional or compressional asphyxiation when attempting to handcuff subjects laying on hard surfaces. The actions and inactions described here are unfortunately part of the long-standing custom, habit, and practice of members of the Los Angeles Police's Department to use unreasonable force, including tasing and compressing suspects in an unreasonable and/or excessive manner.

The Claimants are further informed and believe that each of the unknown involved Police officers has conspired, and continues to conspire to hide and distort the true facts concerning this incident. This conspiracy is furthered by each of the unknown involved police officers described above, preparing false and misleading reports, as well as providing false and misleading statements concerning the true nature of their interaction with Mr. Anderson, the circumstances leading up to his being assaulted, battered, and tased, and their delay in summoning medical assistance to treat Mr. Anderson's injuries.

Based on the actions and failures to act by each of the unknown involved Police officers described above, the Claimants will bring causes of action for wrongful death and survival action - negligence, wrongful death and survival action - battery, assault, battery, false imprisonment, negligence in several different respects, conspiracy, violation of federal civil rights, and violation of the state civil rights and state anti-discrimination laws.

D. General Description of the Indebtedness, Obligation, Injury, Damage, or Loss so far as is presently known:

S.K.A. is the natural son of Keenan Anderson. He was born September 6, 2017. Ms. Hansell is S.K.A.'s natural mother. As a legal result of his father's death, Mr. Anderson has suffered severe, emotional, and financial pain, injury, and damages resulting from the loss of his father's love, comfort, companionship, society, care, assistance, protection, and financial and moral support. He has treated with mental health professionals and counselors to help him deal with his suffering and has incurred damages all in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial, within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and not less than *Thirty-five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000.00)*.

The Estate of Keenan Darnell Anderson has incurred economic damages, as well as injuries damages and harm stemming from the intentional and/or negligent infliction of harm on Mr. Anderson until the moment that he took his last breath, all in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial, within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and not less than ***Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00)***.

E. **The Name(s) of the Public Employee(s) causing the injury, damage or loss:**

Unknown Los Angeles Police officers.

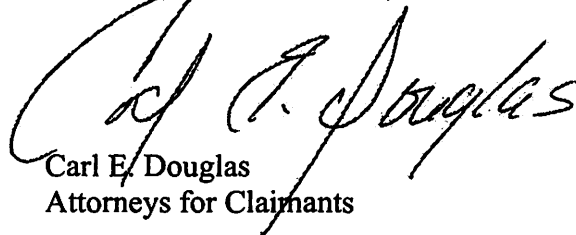
F. **The Amount Claimed:**

For S.K.A., an amount to be determined according to proof at trial, within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and not less than ***Thirty-five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000.00)***.

For the Estate of Keenan Darnell Anderson, an amount to be determined according to proof at trial, within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and not less than ***Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00)***.

Very truly yours,

DOUGLAS/HICKS LAW, APC



Carl E. Douglas
Attorneys for Claimants