

Mother of Jordan Davis Reflects upon her Loss

By Kam Williams
For *The Skanner News*

Lucy McBath is the mother of Jordan Davis, the unarmed teenager gunned down at a Florida gas station for refusing to turn down the radio which was playing loud rap music. Although Jordan’s murderer, Michael Dunn, has been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the crime, Lucy has remained a very vocal advocate on behalf of all victims of such violence.

Here, she reminisces about Jordan while discussing *3½ Minutes, Ten Bullets*, a documentary chronicling the trial of her son’s killer. She also discusses her commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement and to pressuring the criminal justice system to hold all violators of black civil rights accountable.

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Kam Williams: Hi Lucy, thanks for the interview.

Lucy McBath: Thank you, Kam. I’m glad we’re able to connect.

KW: *3½ Minutes, Ten Bullets* was a very powerful film. What did you think of it?

LM: I’m extremely pleased because it’s truthful and it does the very thing we wanted, which is [to] impact people. It’s been very, very well received, particularly among

people who never spent much time thinking about the issues of racism and biases and guns and violence. They see how we’re all related dynamically to my story in some way, because it’s everybody’s story.

KW: What interested you in participating in this documentary?

LM: I’m a product of the Civil Rights Era. My father was a Civil Rights leader. So, I understood the power and authenticity of being able to move people for a cause. I felt that this would be one of the most effective ways to reach the largest possible audience and to prick their conscience and to get them to open their homes and communities

to discussions about gun violence and race. This gives us a chance to reach more people than we’d ever be able to just in our own communities.

KW: Editor Jaymie Cain notes that you went to grammar school in her hometown of Joliet, Illinois.

LM: Yes, that’s where I was born and raised. And I still have cousins who reside there.



Lucy McBath in ‘3½ Minutes, Ten Bullets’

KW: She’s wondering whether you filed a civil lawsuit against your son’s killer, Michael Dunn.

LM: Yes, we did.

KW: How would you describe Jordan in 25 words or less?

LM: Fun-loving, intuitive, spiritual and humorous... [Chuckles] He was always playing jokes, yet he was also really concerned about others, especially people who had less than he had, and people who who didn’t have the opportunities that he had.

KW: What was it like to not only lose your son, but to have to grieve in the national spotlight, and at a time you were also battling breast cancer?

LM: It was extremely, extremely difficult. I had to deal with my son being murdered as well as my health, and have it all played out in the media. But I understood the inherent importance of what we were doing, and that I would have to put aside all of my ills and my “isms” because what God was doing was much greater than Jordan, and that Jordan’s life was serving as a catalyst for change. So I had to put aside what was uncomfortable for me to do what I needed to do.

KW: Have you bonded with any of the other parents of other unarmed young blacks killed by whites in recent years?

LM: Absolutely! I’m good friends with

Sybrina Fulton [Trayvon Martin’s mother]. Just recently, I spent some time with Michael Brown’s mother [Leslie McSpadden]. I’ve met Eric Garner’s mother [Gwen Carr] and Tamir Rice’s mother [Samaria Rice], too. Every year in Miami, Sybrina hosts what she calls “The Circle of Mothers.” Along the way, I’ve had a chance to meet quite a few other mothers who are grieving over the murders of their children, many of whose cases never garnered national attention.

KW: Do you see a psychological difference in yourself from them, since you’re the only mother whose son’s killer was convicted of murder?

LM: In that regard, I’m kind of stuck between a rock and a hard place. Just because we’ve received justice, doesn’t mean that we don’t care about everyone who hasn’t. It actually makes us even more passionate because we know that justice can be done. We wanted to set a precedent in the justice system to give a sense of hope to our people. We have to care about what’s happening in our community. We have to care about the other mothers and fathers who have never received justice for their loved ones. So, we feel very responsible to continue to stand and fight the system with our heads high for the rest of our lives, if necessary, until we create the changes necessary for everyone to receive justice.

KW: Is there one widespread misconception about Jordan that you’d like to correct for the record?

LM: Yeah, Jordan was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. Because it happened in Florida, everybody thinks Jordan was from there. But he has a whole history in Georgia. His church friends... his home school group... the church school group... The whole essence of who Jordan is, is because of Atlanta. That’s what I want people to know.

See MCBATH on page 3

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