

News

Prosecutors Abandon Case Against Police in Homicide of Freddie Gray

BALTIMORE (AP) — More than a year after a Black man suffered a broken neck in a police van, the effort to hold six officers criminally responsible for his death collapsed Wednesday when the city dropped all charges in the case that tore Baltimore apart and exposed deep fissures between the police, prosecutors and the people.

A day before another trial was to begin, prosecutors dismissed charges against three remaining officers, blaming police for a biased investigation that failed to produce a single conviction in the death of Freddie Gray.

Gray, 25, was fatally injured in

April 2015 while he was handcuffed and shackled but left otherwise unrestrained in the back of the van. His death added fuel to the growing Black Lives Matter movement, set off massive protests and led to the city's worst riots in decades.

Prosecutors suffered blow after crippling blow in the courtroom. A judge acquitted three other officers, including the van driver who prosecutors considered the most responsible and another officer who was the highest-ranking of the group. A mistrial was declared for a fourth officer after a jury deadlocked. Authorities had planned to retry him.

The case took shape soon after the rioting, when Democratic State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby confidently announced the charges atop a sweeping staircase across from City Hall. At the time, she said her decision was based not only on the police investigation but an independent investigation conducted by her office.



Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, at podium, holds a news conference near the site where Freddie Gray, depicted in mural in background, was arrested after her office dropped the remaining charges against three Baltimore police officers awaiting trial in Gray's death, in Baltimore, Wednesday, July 27, 2016. At left is Gray's father, Richard Shipley.

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THE WAKE OF VANPORT

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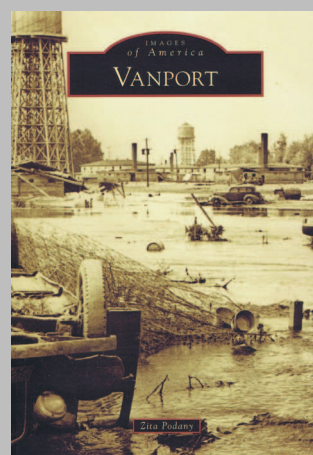
★★★★★ *Together, this touching collection of truly heartfelt remembrances paint a poignant portrait of a short-lived, idyllic oasis* —Movie Critic Kam Williams

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"The Wake of Vanport" is so named to honor the death of a city and the viewing of its history through the collection of Vanport stories told by the voices of those who lived there.

Join us for this screening of multimedia works produced during the 2014 Vanport Multimedia Project dedicated to collecting and preserving Vanport survivors' stories. Immediately following the screening there will be an opportunity for discussion with survivors and producers.



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