

Times, The (Shreveport, LA)

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Marquise Hudspeth Shooting: A Year Later

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Deceased Name: Marquise hudspeth;James pannell

Shreveport Police Department

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On March 15, 2003, a series of events unrolled in Shreveport that left the city, its residents and the community

Paying A High Cost

By Don Walker

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In the hail of gunfire there were 15 shots in all.

One man dead.

One city rattled.

One year ago Monday, Shreveport police officers pursued 25-year-old Marquise Hudspeth down Hearne Avenue to a vacant convenience store parking lot near Midway Street. Hudspeth, a black man, emerged from his car brandishing a cell phone that he pointed like a gun, at least twice, at officers. Two white officers opened fire, striking Hudspeth eight times.

In the back.

The toll of this one shooting has proved costly to Shreveport. It's a toll measured in the breakdown of black/white relations, in the scrutiny of the men and women in blue, in the unflattering spotlight of negative national exposure, in the mounting cost to the families involved ! and the taxpayers who are paying the bills.

Local legal fees, investigations and man-hour costs have climbed to nearly a half-million dollars. A \$20 million lawsuit from Hudspeth's family is pending.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice continues its investigation of the shooting - an investigation similar to more than 200 others in this region's federal judicial district that have never resulted in prosecution of law enforcement.

The shooting, Shreveport NAACP President James Pannell said, "galvanized the community more than anything else might have done."

ONLINE

Visit shreveporttimes.com to review photos, archived stories and the video of the March 15, 2003, fatal police shooting of Marquise Hudspeth. Sound off with thoughts on the incident in an online forum.

Photo captions:

Marquise Hudspeth is shot by patrolmen March 15, 2003.

The Rev. Al Sharpton talks about the shooting to a full house at the Lake Bethlehem! Baptist Church on June 3, 2003.

Strawn's Eat Shop employees Rick Moreau and Catherine Jackson discuss the incident.

"The killing must stop," Linda Logan says at The Times diversity forum April 28, 2003.

Mayor Keith Hightower looks on as Police Chief Jim Roberts announces his retirement June 20, 2003.

File/The Times

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