


The History of Policing in African American Communities

*Washington State
Task Force & Advisory Group*



The 13th Amendment

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for a crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted*, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Passed January 31, 1865
Ratified December 6,
1865

BLACK CODES

“A code of laws especially as adopted by some southern states of the U.S. shortly after the Civil War limiting the rights of black people”

***The
Criminalization
of
Freed people***

*Certain behaviors that people
had not been arrested for, or
that were never before
prosecuted as crimes, were
turned into offenses
punishable by incarceration*

Vagrancy Laws

“the crime of wandering about without employment or identifiable means of support”



Mississippi Law (1865)

- ...freedmen, free Negroes, and mulattoes in this state over the age of 18 years found on the second Monday in January 1866...[without] lawful employment...shall be deemed vagrants; and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined...
- In case any freedman, free Negro, or mulatto...fails [to pay the fine, it is], the duty of the sheriff of the proper county to hire out said freedman, free Negro, or mulatto..."


Black Codes

Slavery by Another Name

(Time 15:03-19:50)



The
Criminalization
of Freed people



African American prison
population increases
and black Americans
would come to make
up 70%

of the southern prison
population in states like
Mississippi and Georgia

The Argument

Freed people
needed to be
managed and controlled,
because as a group they
were ***unfit and***
unprepared
for freedom

THE CONVICT LEASE SYSTEM

Police officers arrest, confine in jails, and oversee the process of leasing freed people to plantation owners and to southern industrialists

Images





Images

Images



Images

“New Alabama Riot Police Dogs and Fire Hoses Holt March”

LA Times



BULL CONNOR



HOSES IN BIRMINGHAM

Unwittingly, he and his city brought millions of people to the Negro's side.



Images

Images
“Violence
Explodes
at Racial
Protest in
Alabama”
*New York
Times*
(1963)

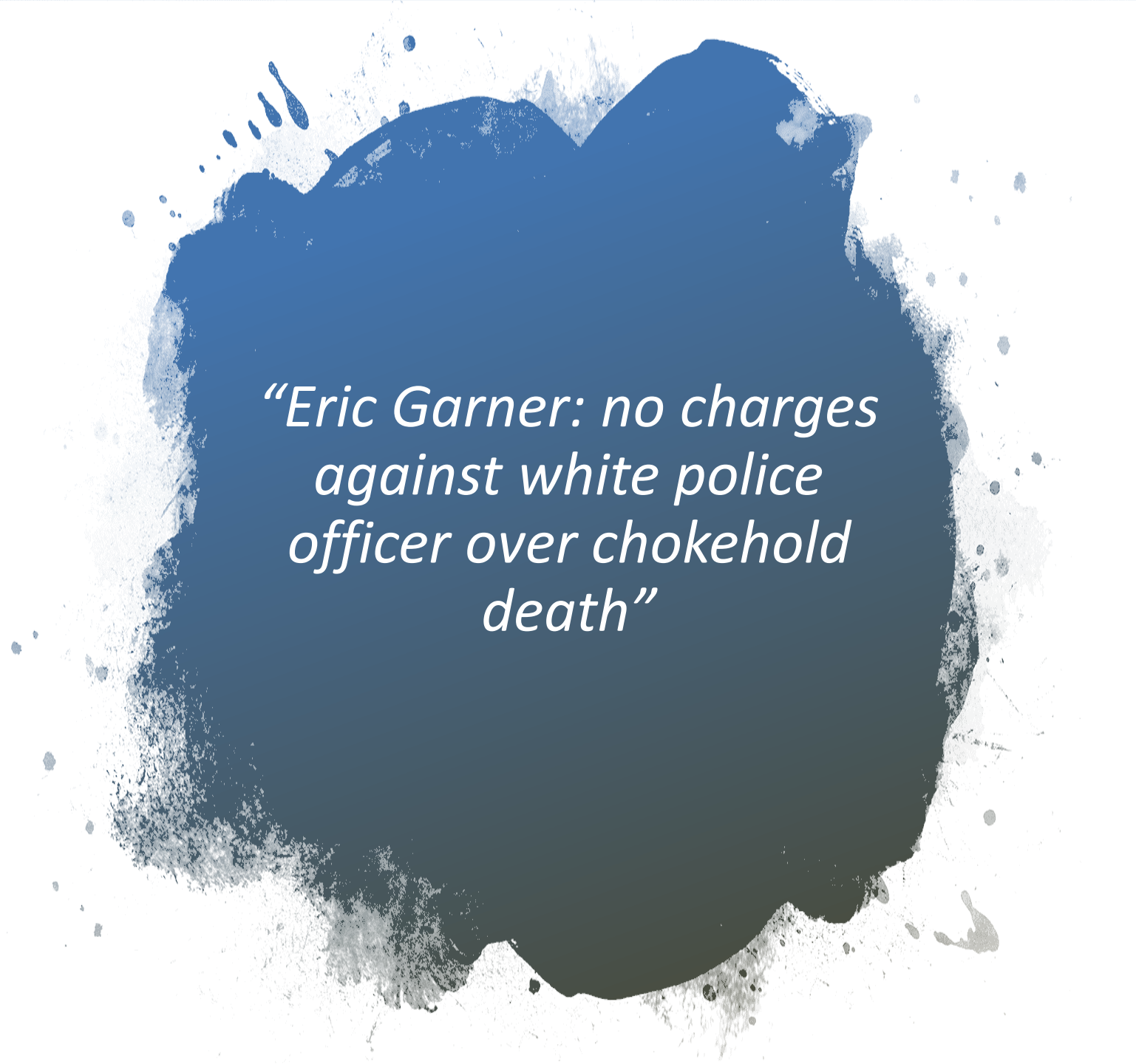




Images




Images



*“Eric Garner: no charges
against white police
officer over chokehold
death”*

“No charges filed against Brooklyn Center police officers involved in fatal shooting”

*“Prosecutor will not charge the
police officer who shot and
killed Michael Brown in
Ferguson”*



War on Crime & Drugs

- In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson called for a “War on Crime”

Law Enforcement Assistance Act-
*empowers the national
government to take a direct role in
militarizing local police*

Nixon


- By the 1970s, President Richard Nixon establishes his War on Drugs/War on Crime, which also target movements, including the Black Power Movement, Women's Liberation Movement and the LGBT Movement
- Some in these communities deemed his policies as a “war to imprison black people and hippies”

A large red circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Tough on Crime & Mandatory Sentences

- October 27, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signs into law the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986
 - Mandatory Minimum Sentences





Tough on Crime & Mandatory Sentences

- September 13, 1994
 - President Bill Clinton passes the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994
 - Three Strikes Law

The History of Policing in African American Communities & The Impact on Independent Investigation?



Favor Outside,
Independent
Investigations of
Alleged Police
Misconduct