



PARTNERING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

#LetTheKidsGrow

"AS EMOTIONS RUN HIGH, VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD IN A RESPECTFUL, INTELLIGENT WAY... WE NEED TO FOCUS ON BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE AND SAFER CITY SO EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN, CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND THRIVE."

- CHRISTOPHER 2X



CHRISTOPHER 2X
GAME CHANGERS
TARGET EDUCATION • CRUSH VIOLENCE

*READ FULL STATEMENT IN POST

As protests over the death of Breonna Taylor continue, Christopher 2X is working to build trust and understanding between communities and law enforcement, supporting growing numbers of gun violence victims and their families, and advocating for non-violence.

He has been a support system for Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, and a leading voice with local and national media – including CNN, The New York Times, ABC's 20/20, NBC's Today Show and The Washington Post – relating to Breonna Taylor and record-breaking gun violence in Louisville. In the past three months, he has been quoted in more than 75 local news stories, and more than a dozen national stories.

In the aftermath of Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron's announcement that no Louisville Metro Police officers would face state charges for her daughter's death, Chris has worked to calm tensions and comfort those troubled by the decision. For many, the charges against only one officer for wanton endangerment for firing into an apartment near Taylor's during the raid, did not represent justice for Breonna Taylor.



FACILITATING MEETINGS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Weeks before the announcement, Chris had arranged, at Cameron's request, for him to meet with Palmer and other family members. Cameron promised at that meeting to provide Palmer with notice of the grand jury's decision in advance.

His office posted on social media that he was grateful to meet with Taylor's family members, their attorneys and Chris.

Later, Chris helped comfort Palmer after she emerged in tears from a meeting with Cameron in Frankfort where she learned the outcome of the grand jury investigation into her daughter's death.

When protests followed, through social media, mainstream media and communications with protesters, Chris highlighted an ongoing federal investigation which could lead to additional charges and called for voices to be heard with respect and intelligence.

Early this summer, Chris began connecting FBI leadership in Kentucky with young protester leaders. He facilitated additional discussions including a meeting on Aug. 4 at the FBI Headquarters in Louisville. While details of the FBI investigation were not discussed, Louisville's FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Brown revealed the investigation was their top priority with leading agents on the case. The FBI office posted a statement on social media expressing gratitude for the "willingness to open the lines of communication."



Louisville anti-violence activist Christopher 2X at a news conference outside the Louisville FBI headquarters this month. (Joshua Lott for The Washington Post)

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES



With gun violence surging, more families are reaching out to Chris with calls for help and support. He's heard from an estimated 25 families in the past three months alone. Some are frustrated and want to know why police can't solve cases involving their lost loved ones, others seek help dealing with troubled, dangerous youth who have turned to gun violence, and still others want someone to listen and help with funeral arrangements.

The violence hit close to home for Chris on Aug. 21 when his friend Kim Jarboe was shot and killed in the Shawnee neighborhood during a suspected carjacking. Jarboe, 49, a TARC bus driver, joined Chris' anti-gun violence network after her son, 15-year-old Andrew Elliott, was shot in the back

and killed in 2010. Jarboe was a comfort to other moms who lost children to gun violence and was part of an event Chris organized last December to reflect on the impact of a decade of loss due to gun violence. Chris spoke with Jarboe two weeks before her death about her participating, as a mom impacted by gun violence, in a project to reach troubled youth. Chris helped with a memorial in her honor at TARC's Union Station, and comforted her mother, Ann Keene, who designated Christopher 2X Game Changers for donations in her daughter's memory. No arrests have been made for her murder.



Chris also came to the aid of the family of three-year-old Trinity Randolph after her shooting death on Aug. 14. Her father, Brandon Waddles, 21, was also shot and killed in his home in the Jacobs neighborhood. Entertainment mogul Percy "Master P" Miller, a close associate of Chris, paid for Trinity's funeral. Police have arrested two men in association with the murders.

HOMICIDES, NON-FATAL SHOOTINGS SURGE PAST RECORD LEVELS

Louisville set a new annual record for homicides in September, with more than three months left in the year.

So far this year, 455 people have been hit by gunfire and 127 homicides have been reported, according to Louisville Metro Police Homicide data. The previous annual record for homicides was 117 in 2016.

The past three months were especially deadly, with a total of 65 homicides and 206 non-fatal shootings.

Chris has tracked shootings in Louisville for nearly two decades and has never seen this level of gun violence. Louisville has had three months in a row with at least 20 homicides in each month. Before this year, five to eight homicides a month, occasionally 10, and 25 non-fatal shootings was typical, he said.

The surge is especially troubling during a pandemic and racial unrest. Families and children impacted by gun violence suffer tremendously in normal times. Now, it's even more difficult for them to get help and for kids to cope with the trauma caused by gun violence and succeed academically and thrive.





Chris helped organize an event, "A Gathering for Hope & Healing," working with Muhammad Ali's widow, Lonnie Ali. Below, Chris and Lonnie Ali are shown outside the Ali Center where the event featuring a diverse group of speakers and prayers was staged for Facebook Live viewing.

