



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

During days of protests, a coronavirus pandemic and near record-level shootings and homicides in Louisville, Christopher 2X has been at the center of developments, supporting victims and advocating for peaceful solutions and justice.

His work, and his personal story, were captured in a front-page Washington Post article on June 8, as his daughter, Heaven, was recovering from COVID-19 and protests were erupting in Louisville over the police killing of Breonna Taylor.

As the story noted, in times of unrest and trauma, Chris' phone never stops alerting him, with calls and texts from families who have lost a love one, from police, the media and community leaders. He responds.

Under Chris's leadership, the Christopher 2X Game Changers organized and partnered with others in peaceful protest gatherings in downtown Louisville, with much of Chris' attention focused on support for the family of Breonna Taylor and providing leadership for young protest participants.

As Louisville became an epicenter for unrest and concern about police interactions with African Americans, national and local media were among those calling Chris. You can read The Washington Post story and other reports featuring Chris at [www.gamechangers.org](http://www.gamechangers.org).

# JUSTICE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR AND HONORING HER MEMORY

Chris heard from Breonna Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, the day after her 26-year-old daughter was killed and he's been by her side when needed, echoing her message that she wants justice for her daughter and repeating calls against violence.

Chris has also been a leading organizer and partner with others in seeking justice, honoring Breonna's work as an Emergency Medical Technician, and naming a public space in her memory.

At a "Sisters Friday" event June 5, what would have been Taylor's 27th birthday, Chris was the Master of Ceremonies for speakers before a peaceful crowd honoring her memory.

Supporters included healthcare workers, who showed up with signs and banners proclaiming, "White Coats for Black Lives." Chris has worked for years with the UofL Hospital Trauma Team and was there with them and other healthcare workers as they showed their support.



The next day, thousands were on hand at 6th and Jefferson streets for an event organized by Taylor's family, with Chris introducing the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Taylor's mother, and others. The vigil in Taylor's honor was capped with the release of thousands of blue, silver, and white balloons over downtown Louisville.

*Chris with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Breonna Taylor family members and others before a celebration in her honor.*



**'White coats for  
black  
lives' (6-5-2020)**

wdrb.com





Chris partnered with Taylor's family and Outfront Media for messages on donated digital billboards to honor Taylor, unite the community and make positive change. The billboards, featuring the Christopher 2X Game Changers logo, are on display at the Kentucky International Convention Center downtown, The Kentucky Exposition Center along I-65, and the Lynn Family Stadium, Louisville's new soccer field, visible from I-71.

An effort to permanently name "Breonna Taylor Fountain at Jefferson Square Park" the spot of a makeshift memorial to her, was announced by Chris at a gathering with Taylor's family, supporters and Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith, who presented Taylor's mother with a city proclamation honoring her daughter for being a "game changer" and an essential healthcare worker during COVID-19.



**300+ motorcyclists  
ride to Louisville to  
support renaming  
public area after  
Breonna Taylor**

[courier-journal.com](https://www.courier-journal.com)

Naming the fountain for Taylor got a boost on June 20 when more than 300 motorcyclists affiliated with the Middle Tennessee Motorcycle Governing Committee, rode into Louisville to show their support. There were greeted at Jefferson Square Park by Christopher 2X, Taylor family members and other supporters.



After Chris arranged for this group, left, to have a conference call discussion with U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, at his request, about justice for Taylor, Paul introduced federal legislation to ban no-knock warrants, the kind used by police when they broke into Taylor's apartment. Chris and Taylor's aunt, Bianca Austin, were among those who spoke with Paul.

## EAST MEETS WEST IN A SHOW OF SUPPORT AND COMPASSION



As protests continued, eighth graders from St. Francis of Assisi School in the Highlands did not take to the streets – they delivered toys for kids in West Louisville. Their teacher, Fred Whittaker, reached out to Chris who connected them to the Chestnut Street YMCA. They delivered carloads of donated toys on June 17 for little ones enrolled in the Y's programs. YMCA District Executive District Director Freddie Brown called it an "action of love." Whittaker said his students are a reminder that "some of the most powerful agents of change are young people" during this "season of change."



# LOUISVILLE FACES TWO EPIDEMICS - SHOOTINGS AND CORONAVIRUS

Unrelated to protests or the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a horrible year for shootings and homicides in Louisville.

June was especially violent, with 70 shootings, a monthly record.

In the first six months of 2020, there were 240 non-fatal shootings, more than double the 117 non-fatal shootings during the same time period last year, according to LMPD data. Homicides are up 37%, with 59 in the first six months of this year, compared with 43 in the same time period last year.

Chris continues to track numbers of criminal shootings and homicides to draw attention to the need for action, as he continues to hear from families of victims. He provides support including helping with funeral arrangements and linking families to other resources.