

News Service

PRESS CONFERENCE

May 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

7677 Oakport St, 5th-floor conference room, Oakland, Ca

Civil Rights Attorney John Burris Announces the Filing of a Civil Wrongful Death Lawsuit by the Family of Banko Brown Against Walgreens, Kingdom Group Protective Services Company" and Security Officer Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony

"Anthony was on edge, a powder keg waiting to explode. Banko's apparent shoplifting was the spark that set Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony off. Walgreens and Kingdom Protective Services ordered their security to be more aggressive, causing their unfit security guard to blow up and kill Banko over nothing."

Attorney John Burris

"No one deserves to be killed for shoplifting or arguing with a security guard. The security company put pressure on the guards to more actively physically detain shoplifters. It's clear Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony felt that pressure and Anthony cracked under the pressure and shot and killed someone who posed no significant threat to him. He should be in jail." Attorney Ben Nisenbaum

For Immediate Release:

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VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHS & COMPLAINT LINK: <https://bncllaw.com/banko-brown/>

FACEBOOK LIVE LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/BNCLlaw/>

The press conference may be viewed via live stream on the BNCL Law Firm Instagram account at [@bncl_law](https://www.instagram.com/bncl_law)

MEDIA-ONLY PRESS CONFERENCE

An off-duty police officer will patrol the parking lot.

Unfortunately, our Facebook Live link may not be broadcast quality. The media is encouraged to attend in person.

WHAT: A John Burris Press Conference announcing the filing of a civil wrongful death lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court by the family of Banko Brown against Walgreens Boots Alliance, an Illinois-based retail pharmacy and wholesale pharmaceutical multinational and the parent company of such drugstore chains as Walgreens and Boots, Kingdom Group Protective Services and Security officer Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony

WHO: Attorneys John Burris and Ben Nisenbaum, The parents of Banko, mother Kevinisha Henderson, and father, Terry Brown

WHEN: May 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: 7677 Oakport St, 5th-floor conference room, Oakland, CA

Oakland CA-The parents of Banko, mother Kevinisha Henderson, and father, Terry Brown, has filed a wrongful death civil lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court against Walgreens Boots Alliance, an Illinois-based retail pharmacy and wholesale pharmaceutical multinational and the parent company of such drugstore chains, Kingdom Group Protective Services "Security Company" and Security Officer Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony. The suit is being brought to vindicate Anthony's wrongful taking of Banko's life.

COMPLAINT

A Walgreens store video captures the full contact between Banko and Anthony. As Banko was leaving the store, he was immediately accosted by Anthony. The security guard, without seeking to interact with Banko verbally, began grabbing him and then unleashed a ferocious attack of punching, choking, and manhandling him. Banko seemed to try and defend himself, but Anderson was larger and stronger than him. After being temporarily released from Anderson, Banko grabbed his bag and backed out of the store, and Anderson pursued him. There was a brief verbal exchange with Banko flexing his chest. He was unarmed and was backing outside the store when Anderson standing inside the store Anderson for inexplicable reasons, discharged his gun into the chest of Banko, killing him. Banko was unarmed, and at no time did he display a weapon or physically assault Anthony before he was shot.

Anthony's claim that he feared for his life is unsupported by any objective evidence. The video shows that at the time of the shooting, Anderson was inside the store with his gun out, and Banko was outside the store, walking backward with an open hand.

At the press conference, there will be stills and slowed-down videos to show the positioning of Anthony and Banko at the time of the shooting.

The lawsuit also alleges that Walgreens' policy of hiring armed security guards was the wrong approach to address its theft problem, especially with many unhoused and low-income clients frequenting the store. The potential danger of the conflicts was amplified by Walgreens' instructing its security guards to confront suspected shoplifters physically.

John Burris believes these changing instructions contributed to the security guards' belief that they could use deadly force whenever they saw fit. Burris further says that, in essence, "Banko's death" is in the hands of Walgreens' executives.

The security company has shared responsibility for Banko's death, for it sent an employee with a gun who was emotionally unsuited for the work at that Walgreens location in San Francisco. After the shooting and while being interviewed by police, Anthony said that before the shooting, he was on "edge" and that "a person can only take so much."

Burris believes that Anthony was on edge, a "powder keg" waiting to explode. Burris believes that Banko's seeking to leave the store without paying was the light that lit the "fuse," causing him to act irrationally and overly aggressive over an alleged petty theft (Banko had \$14 of food items), which resulted in Banko's death. This could have been avoided if Anthony were unarmed, more emotionally balanced, and coupled with less confrontational instruction from Walgreens.

As stated earlier, we believe that Banko was murdered and that Anthony should be criminally prosecuted. As you know, we sent a letter to the California State Attorney General requesting his intervention. He notified us that they would review the District Attorney's decision to determine whether the decision not to prosecute was an "abuse of discretion."

Ben Nisenbaum said: "No one deserves to be killed for shoplifting or arguing with a security guard. That's all this was after the guard beat and choked Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown was upset. According to the witnesses quoted by the District Attorney, the only threat by Mr. Brown to the guard was: "I'll fight you one on one." Nisenbaum said no witness supports the guard's claim that Banko threatened to stab him, and Banko had no weapon on him in any event. According to Nisenbaum, the only one with a weapon was the guard, and he had just severely beaten Mr. Brown. Then he shot Mr. Brown when there were obviously no weapons in Mr. Brown's hands. Nisenbaum said the security company put pressure on the guards to more actively physically detain shoplifters, "and it's clear this guard felt that pressure. Anthony cracked under the pressure and shot and killed someone who posed no significant threat to him. He should be in jail."