

**NEWS SERVICE**  
**PRESS CONFERENCE**

1:00 p.m. May 15, 2024  
1909 Crestwood Drive, Antioch, Ca

**Civil Rights Attorney John Burris To Announce \$7.5 Million  
Settlement Against Antioch California In The 2020 Death of Angelo  
Quinto**

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**John Burris**

*It’s always hard for the family of a loved one killed by police to make a decision that ends the case before a trial. Knowing it would be years before a trial and to still be in a position to push forward with changes necessary to make law enforcement in California more accountable for their misconduct in responding to people, especially people suffering a mental health emergency, this seems like the best decision that could be made.”* Civil Rights Attorney Ben  
**Nisenbaum**

*“I want to thank the City of Antioch for passing many needed policy reforms. Although there is still much work to do, as we all know, I thank you for what has been a courageous beginning to bring about transparency and accountability to the Antioch Police Department so that it may serve our diverse community with respect and mutual trust.”* Angelo Quinto’s  
mother **Cassandra Quinto-Collins**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**What: Press Conference announcing a \$7.5 million settlement by the City of Antioch to the family of Angelo Quinto for his death at the hands of the Antioch Police Department.**

**When: 1:00 p.m. May 15, 2024**

**Where: 1909 Crestwood Drive, Antioch, Ca**

**Who: Attorneys John Burris and Ben Nisenbaum and James Cook of Civil Rights law firm Burris, Nisenbaum, Curry & Lacy, family of Angelo Quinto including Cassandra Quinto-Collins (Angelo's mother), Isabella Quinto-Collins (Angelo's sister), Andrei Quinto (Angelo's brother), Robert Collins (Angelo's step-father), Antioch Mayor Lamar Thorpe and Mayor Pro-Tem Monica Wilson along with their supporters, will be attending and available for questions.**

**Antioch CA---The City of Antioch and the surviving family of Angelo Quinto have agreed to a \$7.5 million settlement of the Quinto family's Civil Rights lawsuit filed over the death of the 30-year-old, healthy Navy Veteran killed during a prone restraint by Antioch Police officers at the Quinto's house on December 23, 2020.**

**John Burris says: "While no amount of money can make up for the tragic circumstances surrounding Angelos's death, his family is to be commended for their unwavering commitment to improving the relationship between the community and Antioch police." Burris goes on to say, "The Quinto family took their pain and anguish and immediately challenged the City to reform its approach to engaging the mentally and emotionally impaired. Their efforts at partnering with the City have resulted directly or indirectly with (1) body-worn cameras, a mental health crisis team, a mobile crisis unit, a police review commission, and state legislation outlawing excited delirium. The family efforts turned a heartbreak into a source of social justice activism that will benefit the community for years to come. This is citizenship at its best" says Burris.**

**According to the lawsuit, Mr. Quinto was suffering an obvious mental health emergency and died at the hands of Antioch Police Officers who forcibly restrained him in a prone position during an obvious mental health emergency at the Quinto residence has led to major reforms in how local police are required to respond to calls for people suffering mental health emergencies.**

**The Quinto family's lawyers say that due in large measure to the organization and activism of Mr. Quinto's surviving family members (Cassandra, Isabella, Andrei, and Robert), in partnership with Assemblyman Mike Gipson, Assembly Bill 360 was passed and signed into law, banning the term "Excited Delirium", and its corollaries, like "Agitated Delirium" from being recognized as a valid medical diagnosis or cause of death in the State of California and prohibiting such terms from appearing on death certificates issued in the**

**State of California. Quinto family lawyer Ben Nisenbaum says that “‘Excited Delirium’ was the phony cause of death given by the County’s contract coroner who performed Mr. Quinto’s initial autopsy. After being confronted in deposition with the results of a second autopsy commissioned by Mr. Quinto’s family and their lawyers, the County coroner revised his opinion and agreed that restraint asphyxia was a cause of Mr. Quinto’s death.”**

**AB 490, also sponsored by Assemblyman Gipson, working with Mr. Quinto’s family, passed in 2021, bans law enforcement in California from using chokeholds and restraint positioning that causes restraint asphyxia.**

**In addition, according to the Quinto family’s attorneys, Assemblyman Gipson, with the support of Mr. Quinto’s family, introduced AB 1608, which would separate county coroner’s offices in California from law enforcement agencies like a sheriff’s office or department. Nisenbaum says, “AB 1608 should have been passed to keep the coroner’s office independent from law enforcement, to help prevent the bias that infected the coroner’s findings concerning Mr. Quinto’s death from happening in other cases where law enforcement has killed people, and the coroner investigating the death has succumbed to pressure by law enforcement to attempt to conceal the role of law enforcement in causing a person’s death.” Though AB 1608 did not pass, Mr. Quinto’s family continues to push for separating the coroner’s office from the sheriff’s office, according to Nisenbaum.**

**Robert Collins says: “I am incredibly thankful that the City of Antioch has been a willing partner in carrying out many needed reforms in how police respond to calls for help. These include instituting dash and body cams for the police department, a community response team (named for Angelo Quinto), and banning holds by police that cause restraint asphyxia, along with many other needed and common-sense reforms.”**

**Cassandra Quinto-Collins says: “I want to thank the City of Antioch for passing many needed policy reforms. Although there is still much work to do, as we all know, I thank you for what has been a courageous beginning to bring about transparency and accountability to the Antioch Police Department so that it may serve our diverse community with respect and mutual trust.”**

**Burris says: “The family turned tragedy into a major source of social good. The mental health crisis team allows future emotionally or mentally impaired people to be assessed by a mental health expert before being confronted by law enforcement. This should save lives.”**

**The Civil Rights lawsuit had been litigated in Federal Court in San Francisco and settled shortly after the City filed an Interlocutory Appeal to the 9th Circuit. The Quinto family filed a Cross-Appeal, stopping a trial that would have occurred later this fall. The Quinto family is represented by Oakland civil rights lawyers John Burris and Ben Nisenbaum.**

**Nisenbaum notes that the settlement is substantial and provides the Quinto family some relief at not having to endure years of appeals before finally having their day in Court after the interlocutory appeals would be decided.**

**Nisenbaum says: “It’s always hard for the family of a loved one killed by police to make a decision that ends the case before a trial. Knowing it would be years before a trial and to still be in a position to push forward with changes necessary to make law enforcement in California more accountable for their misconduct in responding to people, especially people suffering a mental health emergency, this seems like the best decision that could be made.”**

**Nisenbaum added that litigation over the classification of Mr. Quinto’s death by the County remains ongoing and expects that issue to be decided later this year. The family is seeking to have the finding of Mr. Quinto’s death as an “accident” vacated. Nisenbaum says the evidence is clear that Mr. Quinto’s death is properly classified only as a “homicide”, or death at the hands of another.**

**Finally, Bella Quinto Collins said, "we can never bring Kuya Angelo back or change the circumstances of his death, but I am endlessly grateful that we have been able to create meaningful change in his name. Today is the end of a civil suit, but we have still only just begun striving for positive social change."**

Lee Houskeeper

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