

Justice for Peter Liang! Justice for All! Multi-City Rally for Justice and Fairness Feb 20, 2016



➤ Who is Liang?

Peter Liang is a former NYPD officer, who has been passionate about protecting the community from a young age.

➤ What happened?

- Mr. Liang had been on the duty for only 18 months, when he and his rookie partner were assigned to do vertical patrol of NYCHA's Louis H. Pink Houses, one of the most dangerous housing projects in Brooklyn, New York.
- When patrolling the pitch-dark stairwell, Mr. Liang's gun accidentally discharged. The bullet ricocheted off the wall and struck Akai Gurley, an African American young man, who was at the stairwell with his girlfriend about one floor below, and unfortunately caused his death.
- Mr. Liang was convicted of second-degree manslaughter on Feb. 11th, 2016. He may face a sentence of up to 15 years.

➤ Why is the conviction unjustified?

Reason #1 for Liang's conviction: he had the gun drawn and finger on the trigger.

- **Fact:** NYPD's policy on whether an officer should keep a weapon holstered on such patrols is purposely vague and the decision as to when to take a firearm out is left to the discretion of the officers. Given the multiple ambush attacks on police in similar buildings in the past, Mr. Liang's decision was not unreasonable.

Reason #2 for Liang's conviction: he didn't perform CPR on Mr. Gurley after.

- **Fact:** Unaware of Mr. Gurley's injury, Mr. Liang and his partner Mr. Landau were in the 8th floor hallway when Mr. Gurley's Girlfriend first started to perform CPR. Mr. Liang and Mr. Landau also both testified lack of Police Academy Training from NYPD, which makes NYPD at least partially responsible for the death of Mr. Gurley.

➤ What are we here for?

We demand JUSTICE for Liang and equal JUSTICE for all. In the wake of so many unfortunate deaths of unarmed African Americans in recent years, there is an increasing tension in police-community relations. We believe Mr. Liang was subjected to selective prosecution due to the current political environment.

We are deeply sorry for Mr. Gurley and his family. This is a tragedy. Certainly accountability is in order. However, Mr. Liang's current conviction was a clear signal of selective prosecution. He was misrepresented by media: his subtle expression of remorse, due to his Chinese background, was misportrayed as being unsympathetic.

We share the deepest sympathy with the African American community at large. We object to the system covering up racial injustice with more racial injustice without addressing the real issue. We want to make a difference to police-community relations that affect everyone in this country.

We demand accountability from NYPD for its irresponsible patrol assignments, poor training of officers, and its lack of support for its probationary officers.