

CONTACT US:

Ann Arbor Alliance for Black Lives

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LOCAL ACCOMPLICE: RAW

Radical Washtenaw

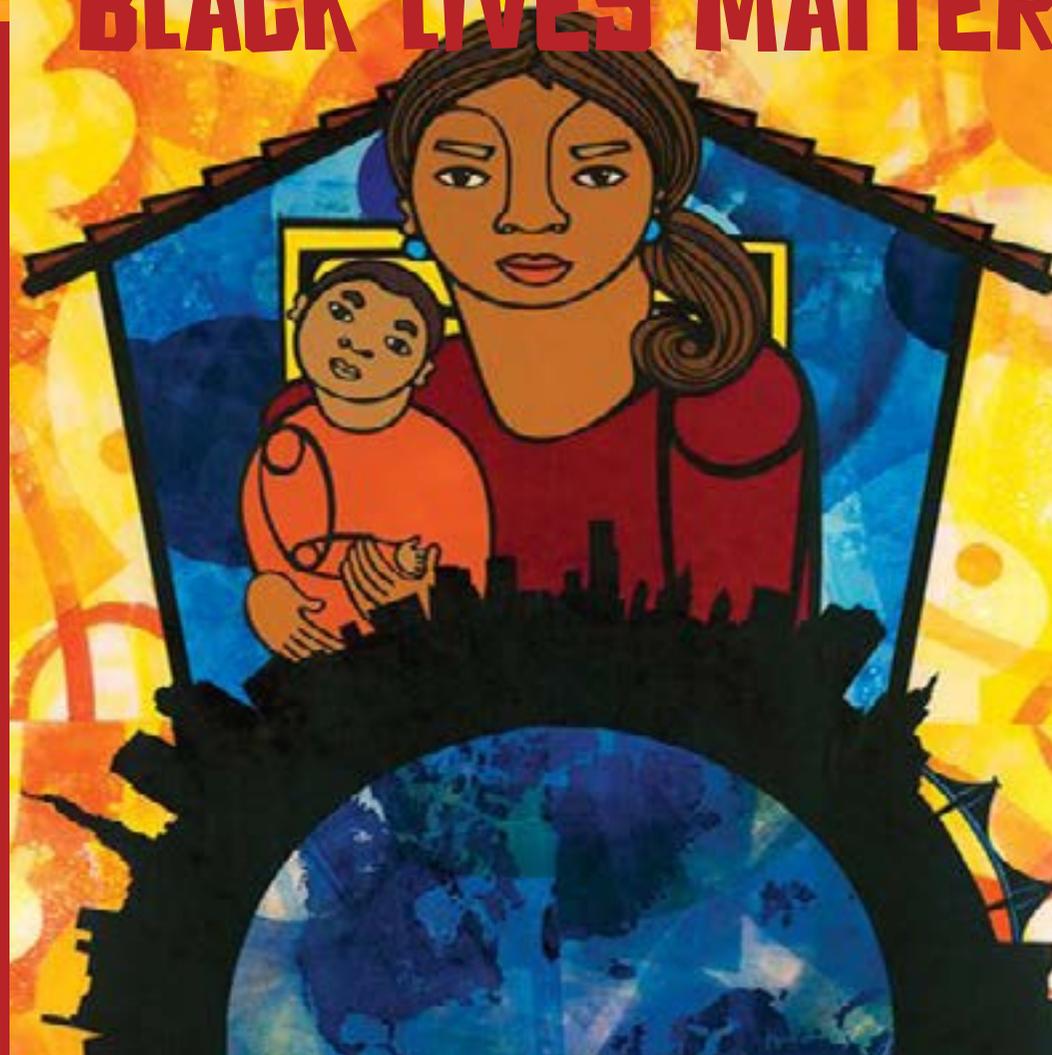
radicalwashtenaw.org

Illustrations by **Favianna Rodriguez**
favianna.tumblr.com

SOURCES:

justiceatlas.org
2014 Washtenaw County Budget
2014 City Budgets for all cities in Washtenaw County,
as well as UMich PD and EMU PD Budgets
People's Retort to the Prosecutor Report
on Aura Rosser's Case

BLACK LIVES MATTER!



organizing against
**POLICE BRUTALITY &
MASS INCARCERATION
IN WASHTENAW COUNTY**

#1 WHO WE ARE:



The Ann Arbor Alliance for Black Lives (A3BL), formerly known as Ann Arbor to Ferguson (AA2F), is a grassroots organization in Southeastern Michigan fighting for justice for Aura Rosser and all oppressed Black Lives in the spirit of the Black Lives Matter movement.

We are looking to coordinate with other community members and organizers, especially Black people, though people of color and co-conspirators are all welcome.

Contact us at aa2ferguson@gmail.com for more information. You can also join our general mailing list by emailing us! Meetings are every Thursday from 7-9pm. Email us for the location.

#2 AURA'S STORY

(...OR WHY WE FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POLICING, WAR, VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION)



Aura Rosser was murdered on November 10, 2014 by Ann Arbor police. Ann Arbor police officers Mark Raab and David Ried responded to a police call from Rosser's partner. Within 5 to 10 seconds of arriving at the home, officer Raab discharged his taser while Ried shot and killed her. Aura was a Black woman, mother of three, an artist, and a Lansing native who moved to Ann Arbor a month before being murdered. By accounts of those who knew and loved her, she was a beautiful, creative, smart and strong person.

SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE DIED

The Michigan State Police conducted an investigation and on January 30, 2015, Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie announced his decision not to indict Officer David Ried for homicide in spite of the fact that Ried knew Aura was grappling with mental health problems.

We believe Aura Rosser's killing and the continual official exoneration of Ann Arbor Police officer Ried is part of the continued assault of bodies of color and disregard for Black lives. Her murder and the subsequent cover up makes not only officer Ried responsible for her murder but all other legal, political and police officials equally responsible and worthy of indictment. Ann Arbor city officials have blamed her mental health instead of her murderer. This is a common tactic: to use legitimate mental health differences in order to legitimate the taking of a black life.

This is why we have continuously marched and shut down city streets and city council meetings in Ann Arbor demanding justice for Aura Rosser and her family.

We will continue to struggle to make a world in which Black Lives matter.

OUR DEMANDS AND VISION:

- Fire Officer David Ried
- Immediate resignation of prosecutor Mackie
- Provide financial support for Aura Rosser's family
- Create civilian review board to oversee law enforcement
- Divert police funding toward jobs, housing, food, and education.
- Abolish the police. The police protect the white wealthy elite and their property. A united community makes police and property unnecessary.

#3 JANIKA'S STORY



(...OR WHY WE FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITH STRONG COMMUNITIES WHERE PRISONS WOULD NOT EXIST)

One year after Aura's murder, in November 2015, Janika Edmond was found dead at the segregation unit shower at the Women's Huron Valley Prison facility. She was a 25 year old Black woman from Adrian, Michigan. The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)

conducted an investigation into her death that resulted in the firing of two Corrections Officers. However, the cause of Janika's death was never released. The family is currently pursuing legal action against the MDOC.

While the state apparatus prevents us from knowing the details of Janika's death, we strongly condemn the disregard for prisoners' physical and mental health, demonstrated by the overcrowding at the Women's Huron Valley prison facility. The officers are Women's Huron Valley completely ignored and mocked Janika's request for mental health support.

Ultimately, **Janika's death is linked to mass incarceration** and a system that disproportionately targets and violates Black women, both within and outside the prison.

We are currently getting in touch with Janika's family to see how we may best support them.

OUR DEMANDS AND VISION:

- Pay restitution to Janika's family.
- Immediate review of all Michigan Department of Corrections prisoners cases that are past their early release dates. Plan and execute release plans for each individual case.
- Moratorium on parole revocations for technical violations
- Create oversight committees to force prosecutors and judges to utilize incarceration only as a last resort
- Divert prison funding toward jobs, housing, food, and education.
- Abolish all prisons, walls and cages. Strong communities make prisons unnecessary.



#4 JANIKA AND AURA:

WHO IS BEING IMPRISONED AND KILLED UNDER RACIAL CAPITALISM?

Janika Edmonds and Aura Rosser lost their lives because of a racial capitalist system that creates visible and invisible institutional barriers to keep Black women in poverty, targeting them with State violence and brutality.

Despite being **only about 12%** of Washtenaw county population, **Black folks make up almost 60% of the county jail population**. The two areas with the highest percentage of residents of color (**zip codes 48197 and 48198**, both in Ypsilanti) are also the areas in the county with the highest rate of imprisoned people. Nearly **50%** of these prisoners are in cages due to having their parole revoked. This is a cycle that traps people when there are corporations such as **Telmate and Trinity Services Group**, which profiteer from **high rates of imprisonment**.

This system of profiteering off of the theft of Black lives is thriving because the government is complicit. Our county and city governments prioritize spending public money on policing and prisons, while cutting funds for social services.

2014 TOTAL EXPENSES IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

Police & Jails:
\$102,498,823



Social Services:
\$28,153,812



The county spends **3^{1/2} times more** on police and jails than on social services.

Number of People Admitted to Prison per 1,000 Adult Residents in Washtenaw County (2008)



In 2014, Washtenaw County spent **\$28,153,812** on social services. A very small number, especially when compared to the **\$102,498,823** spent on **policing and jails**. Our county spends **3.6 times more** on incarcerating and policing than it does on serving the real needs of its residents! A 2008 estimate shows that Washtenaw county spent **2/3** of its **\$31 million** incarceration budget in the **48197 and 48198 zip codes**. That is, \$22 million was spent on imprisoning the residents of two of the most overwhelmingly Black and poor areas in the county.

#5 OUR HISTORY: WHAT WE HAVE DONE

We see our activism and organizing on a continuum with the Black liberation struggle. From the slave revolts throughout the Americas to the Haitian revolution and the anti-colonial and anti-capitalist struggles for independence in the mid 20th century, Black, working class people have fought for justice, dignity, participation and freedom.

Our actions are extensions of the actions of those throughout history who have made the call, without compromise, time and time again, that Black Lives Matter.

MAY 21, 2015

We organized a **#SayHerName** Silent Black Tape Protest in solidarity with National Day of Action to End State Violence Against Black Women and Girls.

MAY 1, 2015

We marched for justice for Aura Rosser and held a fundraising event for her children. We were able to send thousands of dollars to her family.

JAN 2015

After a sham investigation by Michigan State Police, Prosecutor Mackie decided not to indict Officer Ried. We marched through downtown Ann Arbor, staged a guerrilla theater at an Ann Arbor City council meeting, packed the city council in silent protest, and published the People's Retort to the Prosecutor's Report.

DEC 2014

Over 500 people attended AA2F's first meeting and reached the decision to march and pack Ann Arbor City Council, presenting our demands.

NOV 25, 2014

Ann Arbor to Ferguson was born out of the 1,000-strong march through downtown Ann Arbor, in response to the non-indictment of the cop who murdered Michael Brown and the murder of Aura Rosser.

NOV 5-9, 2015

We held a press-conference and packed A2 City Council Meeting, marched and held a vigil for one year after Aura Rosser's murder.

AUG 9, 2015

RAW/AA2F observed one year since the murder of Mike Brown and organized an event, **The Space Between: On the Ground for Michael Brown.**

JUL 24-26, 2015

RAW/AA2F activists participate in the **Movement for Black Lives Convening**, in Cleveland

JUN 27, 2015

AA2F Community BBQ, a smash hit in spite of the rain.

JUN 21, 2015

National Day of Action to **#StandWithCharleston**, RAW/AA2F create memorials in Ypsi.

JUN 19, 2015

We held **#StandWithCharleston** vigils in A2 (AA2F) and Ypsi (Radical Washtenaw - RAW). Protesters in Ypsi wait all night outside jail for detained protester to be released.

FEB 28, 2016

We conducted a Black Brunch protest, reading a script at several local breakfast joints to honor Black lives lost in Michigan, to ask the diners: When we say that Black Lives Matter, whose side are you on?

JAN 8, 2016

AA2F changes its name to **Ann Arbor Alliance for Black Lives (A3BL)**

OUR VALUES

BLACK LEADERSHIP

We honor and elevate the voices of those oppressed.

RESPECT OF DIFFERING BELIEFS

We all work towards the goal of liberation and dignity of Black people because our entire society is anti-Black.

UNITY

We work collectively on action as a collaborative unified entity.

COALITION BUILDING

We use our networks to collaborate with other groups and individuals.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We seek to organize with oppressed groups and allies to expand our collective's reach and growth.

DISRUPTION OF THE STATUS QUO

We are against all forms of oppression, including systemic structures that debilitate oppressed groups.

LEARNING AS INDIVIDUALS AND A COLLECTIVE

We encourage debates and thought exploration in our organizing work.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

We seek to be aware of our membership and promote solidarity, holding one another accountable to get things done

LOVE & DIGNITY BEYOND BARS & BORDERS

