

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: February 23, 2011**

**Re: PRESS CONFERENCE – Filing of Lawsuit by Family of Marvin Booker Arising Out of Death at Denver Jail**

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A press conference is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, **February 24, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.** in front of the Lindsey-Flanigan **Denver District Courthouse, 520 West Colfax Avenue** to discuss the filing of the lawsuit by the Family of Marvin Louis Booker against the City and County of Denver and the 5 law enforcement officers involved in his killing on July 9, 2010 at the new Denver Jail.

Marvin Booker, who was 56 years old when he was killed at the jail, had been arrested on a minor municipal violation the evening of July 8. When he was finally called for booking after having waited several hours at the jail, he realized that he had forgotten his shoes where he had been sitting, and turned to retrieve them. Although he presented no threat, a Sheriff's Deputy pursued him to restrain him, and four other Sheriff's officials jumped on him, aggressively forcing him to the ground. One officer applied a carotid chokehold, called a "sleeper hold," while other officers forcefully restrained his arms with handcuffs and legs by beating them with nunchucks, placing their full weight upon his helpless body, while another officer then inflicted powerful Taser shocks to his body. Mr. Booker, who was only 5' 5" tall and weighed only 135 lbs, died under these multiple restraints. Although there were many eyewitnesses to the killing, and it was captured on videotape from several angles, nothing has been done to discipline the officers involved. Denver has stalled for over 7 months, claiming to still be "investigating" the incident that took only a few minutes to occur.

Mr. Booker's death was captured on videotape, but Denver has refused to allow his family or the public to see this crucial evidence, or any other evidence at all. The City of Denver and various institutions and individuals have engaged in a conspiracy to cover-up the details of this killing, which is only one recent example of the custom and culture within Denver law enforcement to encourage, condone and ratify brutality on the part of law enforcement officers. Although there have been numerous instances of brutality in Denver over the last several years, no effective remedial action is taken by the City against the wrongdoers, contributing to the culture where such unconstitutional behavior is allowed to continue and recur.

The Booker family is represented by the Denver civil rights law firm of Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP. Family members and their legal counsel will be available to further explain the legal bases and goals of this lawsuit and to answer inquiries from the public and the media.