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MASSIVE MANHUNT CONTINUES FOR SUSPECTS IN BELGIUM

FBI Richmond office to investigate 20-time taser arrest

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By Mike Valerio [CONNECT](#)

RICHMOND, VA (WWBT) - The FBI's Richmond Division will investigate the death of 46-year-old Linwood Lambert Jr., reviewing whether the use of Tasers 20 times during a 2013 arrest was justified.

The top official from the Richmond office, Special Agent in Charge Adam S. Lee, personally informed Lambert's sister of the decision.

Lambert, 46, is seen on video obtained by NBC News repeatedly tasered by South Boston officers. Police took Lambert to Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital on May 4, 2013, after he exhibited signs of paranoia at a nearby hotel.

Lambert had been using cocaine, and kicked out the window of a squad car when he arrived at the hospital.

Police said the use of force was justified, shocking Lambert 20 times in the span of 30 minutes. The man died an hour after the three officers first responded.

"He was handcuffed, and they were able to shackle him," said Lambert's sister, Gwendolyn Smalls, in an interview Thursday. "When they tasered him, and he was on the ground, they could see that he was begging for his life and he was not a threat. Not to himself, to them, or to anyone else."

The new inquiry is separate from a federal civil case set for May in Danville. Lambert's family is seeking \$25 million in damages from South Boston Police.

No charges have been filed since the night of the arrest, and an autopsy concluded Lambert died of "acute cocaine intoxication."

The autopsy findings are disputed by the family, with a relatively small concentration of less than 0.01 mg/L of cocaine found in Lambert's system.

With a single Taser discharge carrying 50,000 volts, federal authorities will now begin a new review of what, if any, role the tasers played in Lambert's death.

"We can finally get some sleep at night, knowing that if anything comes out, they're going to do a thorough job," Smalls said.

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