

In his search for answers, father goes to governor

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Linwood Lambert Sr., the father of Linwood Raymond Lambert Jr. who died May 4, 2013 while in police custody, this week asked Gov. Terry McAuliffe to assist Lambert's family in "getting answers to what really happened to our son, brother, father and grandfather."

A resident of Bowie, Maryland, Lambert Sr. sent a personal letter expressing appreciation to the governor "for taking the step to urge local prosecutor Tracy Quackenbush Martin to finish the job in the case of Linwood Raymond Lambert Jr.'s suspicious death in May 2013 in South Boston."

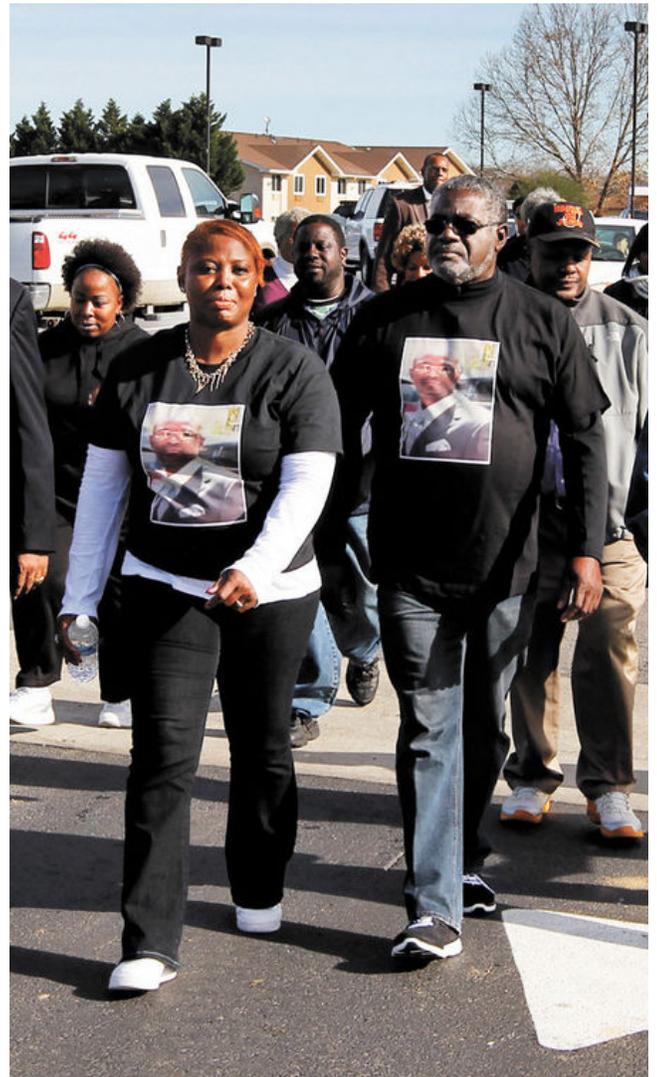
He further claims, "There seems to be a deliberate effort to delay a decision as to whether or not the police officers involved will be charged with any type of criminal activity."

The letter outlines the state police investigation conducted under the leadership of Officer John Reiger which Lambert Sr. states in his opinion "was not thorough as it was presented to the State's Attorney's Office."

He further noted the investigating officers took the depositions of police officers Tiffany Bratton, Travis Clay and Clifton Mann but failed to question the discrepancies in what they reported as it related to the video.

He questions why Officers Bratton, Clay and Mann continue to serve the South Boston community as police officers.

The letter further questions why officers did not take Lambert into the hospital for the mental



Linwood Lambert Sr. and Gwendolyn Smalls

Linwood Lambert Sr., the father of Linwood Raymond Lambert Jr., is shown here with his daughter, Gwendolyn Smalls, who has filed a \$25 million civil lawsuit against the South Boston Police Department.

evaluation as the officers' reason for initially driving him there.

“Actually, my son should never have been transported to the hospital (which he was not taken into) by patrol car. People with health issues are transported by ambulance,” the letter said, adding, “The officers are not trained to assist in a medical emergency – the officers said they were taking him for a medical evaluation.”

Lambert explains to the governor he is a native Virginian, who grew up in Saxe spending his childhood and formative years in Charlotte County.

“Our family roots for generations are there in Charlotte County. Many of the members of our extended family are still residents of Southern Virginia.

“As a result of the aforementioned death of my son, Linwood Raymond Lambert Jr., there are memories being brought back to surface which I have long tried to suppress. There were some troubled times (for me) spent in that area relative to ‘the way things were’ in the 50s and 60s, however, I remain a proud son of Virginia.”

He concluded the letter to the governor explaining the trauma he and his family have experienced since the death of Lambert.

“Losing a child, my only son, is extremely devastating within itself because, as you know, it is not the natural order of things. In addition, the manner in which my son died adds to the devastation.

“My entire life has been drastically affected including the inability to sleep through nights. My daughters are experiencing the same effects. Thus, we are spending our days and nights in constant communication questioning why and what will be done. We are unable to focus on our work and just general day-to-day activities.

“It’s been almost three years, thus, we are seeking some form of closure,” the letter states, and Lambert asks the governor for his “assistance, support and reassurance that the law is appropriately applied in a timely manner.”