

Standing For Trayvon

Slain Florida boy's family blasts police probe of alleged killing by Neighborhood Watch captain —by *Aisha I. Jefferson*

• A million “what ifs” have passed through Tracy Martin’s mind about the day his 17-year-old son, Trayvon Martin, was fatally shot in suburban Orlando, FL, on Feb. 26.

What if Trayvon was of another race— would Neighborhood Watch captain George Zimmerman, who is White, have been charged more quickly? What if Trayvon had been the shooter— would he have been speedily arrested and charged? And, one other scenario: “What if Zimmerman had stayed in his vehicle? [Trayvon] would’ve still been here,” says Martin, 45, who believes the man ignored a police dispatcher’s advice to wait for police.

The boy’s father says he is skeptical about the police probe of the case. “My son was murdered, and I don’t think the Sanford Police Department is doing a thorough investigation.”

The family’s lawyer, Benjamin Crump, says Trayvon and his dad, both of Miami, were visiting the dad’s girlfriend in the Sanford, FL-area gated community. Trayvon was returning from a store when Zimmerman approached him. A tussle ensued and Zimmerman, 28, allegedly shot the unarmed youth in the chest with a 9mm handgun, Crump says. Zimmerman told police he acted in self-defense and was released after questioning, the lawyer says.



At press time, Zimmerman hadn’t been charged with a crime because police say they don’t have probable cause. Also, police had not released a 911 call Crump says could show Zimmerman unfairly targeted Trayvon. Crump filed a court order to have the calls released.

Sanford Police spokesman Sgt. David Morgenstern tells JET, “We know we’ve done a fair investigation.”

In the meantime, the family waits. “We are missing him,” says Trayvon’s mom, Sybrina Fulton, 46, also of the Miami area. She says her mild-mannered son liked sports and aspired to attend Florida A&M University in 2013. “Our heart is really broken.”

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