

Dr Scott Testa (From Friends Of Crooked Whitpain) The Christian Reeve Podcast #329.publer.com

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Please don't work like they used to Can't place your bets on the 9-to-5 Please don't work like they used to That's not enough to keep you alive Hello and welcome to another episode of the Christian Reef podcast. Today's guest is a university lecturer, a writer and an advocate for the Friends of Crooked Whitpain group. Now, before I start talking with Dr Scott Testa, who is our guest today, I want to just kind of run down what I received, because, as you know, on this show, every now and again, we'll get quite quite a serious show come through something that I have to kind of approach a little differently, do my research and really build something.

And I've got questions from you guys, which we'll get into later as well. But I just want to begin with the initial email that I received, which is it's a lot. So here we go.

People from reaching out on behalf of the Friends of Crooked Whitpain group, which is a community community group based in Bluebell, Pennsylvania, are sharing a developing civil rights case with extensive documentation and serious implications for public accountability. In 2022, a gentleman called Dante Perez Jones, a black US Army veteran, was found dead under suspicious circumstances at a public park in Whitpain Township. Officials quickly labeled the death a suicide.

But the condition of his body, the timeline inconsistencies and witness accounts tell a different story. And there's a lot of serious concerns about the integrity of the investigation, racial bias, etc. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident.

There's a separate 2024 case in which an interracial couple in the same township was the victim of a home burglary. Despite providing police with clear video evidence, the case was virtually ignored and frustrated. The victims began their own investigation, uncovering patterns that suggest residents of color in Whitpain may face unequal treatment in serious criminal matters.

These documented failures have led to a civil rights lawsuit and a sense of growing public scrutiny. Now, that's the background for this. Welcome to the show, Dr. Scott Tesla.

It's a pleasure to have you here. Thank you for your time. I guess the first kind of question I want to ask you right off the bat is how did you come aboard with this? Where were you brought in? Were you a founding member of this group or were you invited on board or did you seek it out yourself? How did that happen? Yeah, so I'll give you a little bit of background.

I've been in this area my entire life. I've been in Bluebell proper since 93, so I've been there over 30 years. There was always rumors that, quite frankly, the workings of the township was, I don't know how to say, not up to snuff.

Yeah, we lived our life fine, but you'd always hear these rumors. I've known two people personally where, based upon their background, it sounds like the township went after them a little strong about certain violations. I heard a quote from someone who was a Holocaust victim.

They said, when they came for the handicap, I didn't say anything. When they came for the homosexuals, I didn't say anything. When they came for the Jews, I didn't say anything.

When they came for me, no one said anything. This has been a continuing pattern. It's obvious.

When we started to drill down, there is a definite pattern of targeting people, not just Black people, but people in general. We have evidence of it. All the data on the crookedwhitpain.com site has been triangulated.

There was a Black police officer, Jameel Van, who is now on permanent disability. He also had a case. This is a town of 20,000 people, and there is by far more civil rights lawsuits against this township than towns with 20 times more people.

This is a crooked place with crooked people. And they have their head in the sand. By far, the biggest glaring is this Dante Perez Jones.

We have a list of 21 facts. This is just a strange case. I could go through every one of those 21 facts, but at the end of the day, there is something seriously wrong going on here, and we're going to stop it.

Yeah, absolutely. If you wouldn't mind, I wouldn't mind going through those. I did actually receive a document just prior to you coming on today, and I had time to go through it all.

I was pretty shocked, to be honest, with the overwhelming amount of inconsistencies and evidence. But before we get into that, I just want to say, as a British person looking at this from across the pond, it's not a surprise to me that there is this racial bias that exists. We're all very aware of the racism that exists in the US, and you see it time and time again in the United States.

And normally, there'll be a big case or a series of cases that will occur, and then there'll be public unrest and appeals to justice and stuff. And in some instances, there will be justice and others that won't, but the problem still persists. So when I saw this, it was interesting to me from the perspective of how can this continue to happen, logically as well.

Racism is unfortunately one of those things we all have to band together and try to defeat and continue to try and defeat. It's the ongoing fight, right? But from a legal standpoint, when you look at these cases again and again and again, it's the same issues every time. It's police incompetence or outright differential treatment.

You know, I see it here in the UK sometimes as well. I do a lot of work in hospitality, and I did a

lot of agency work. So I met a lot of people from Nigeria that do it.

They come over, they make a living, maybe they go back, maybe they form a living here. You can't unsee it. It's right there in front of you.

I'd be there working side by side with them, and I would notice that certain managers in certain venues would treat me differently and them differently. And I was like, that has to be a race thing. I can't unsee that.

I'm not stupid. I can see it. And a lot of my friends would deal with it differently.

Some would call it out, others would ignore it. But they all kind of agreed, yeah, this is racism. And I've often referred to it in the past as being institutional racism, which I know is a term that gets coined and thrown around a lot.

But that's really the biggest way that I see it. Just going back to a bit of the history of it in the United States, obviously, we heard about the LA riots in the 90s. We know about the civil rights dating back to the 50s, 60s, and before that.

And then obviously, I think probably the biggest one that everyone thinks about is George Floyd and everything that happened with that. And the interesting thing as well is that there's a lot of cases you don't hear about that don't get publicized that are similar. So around the time of George Floyd, I think there was at least five or six other different, fairly well-known cases, but they just weren't being talked about.

And the media's hand in that is that they don't always publicize everything. It's the same thing that happens here as well. They choose what fits their narrative they're trying to put out.

And I don't want to sound like a conspiracy theorist, but at the end of the day, you can't unsee that. And you can't look at it as anything other than favoritism according to race, which is part of my language, but bullshit. It's not okay, obviously.

I don't need to tell you that. I don't need to tell our wonderful listeners that. It's frustrating.

It doesn't make any sense. And from a legal perspective, they don't have a leg to stand on. And I think this case is a really, really big example of that.

If you wouldn't mind, let's go over the inconsistencies. If you want to read into it, you can go to the website, Crooked Whippane, Google it, and you can get a real deep dive for everything. So we'll try to go through this and just highlight really quickly some of the glaring things, and then we can move from there.

Does that sound good? Sounds good. All right. So basically, Dante Perez Jones was found hanging in a park, like from monkey bars, like the kids monkey bars that you play with in playgrounds.

And right off the bat, he was six foot five. And his body was found hanging from a low set of monkey bars, like right off the bat. Yeah, he's still in flip flop sandals, his feet were flat on the ground.

They said, and this is right off the bat, that this is the big thing they said is it was a suicide. And there is some potential there. But as you'll see, as we go through all these points, it becomes like less and less likely to the point where it's like, nah, there's just no way.

But this right off the bat, I thought was interesting, because six foot five, when you imagine that in your head, and then you imagine a playground set, like, they look really big when you're a kid. But like when, obviously, when you're an adult, you're like, wow, this is not really that high. So like, in my mind, I imagine his legs would have been probably slanted or like Jeremy, like his for his whole body to be up submerged like that, like, yeah, so the reports are that he wasn't actually hanging, he was leaning.

So so if you could imagine a monkey bar type of structure where there's two, two, you know, horizontal bars, and and so he looked at he was more leaning, leaning versus hanging, his feet were flat. That in itself, if you look at any of the any of the scientific research is very unusual in itself. And not only was he flat footed, but he was leaning against one of the rails on the side.

So his body configuration, you're flat footed and you're leaning. Those two in itself, the chances of that is infinitesimal. I mean, you can't.

It's just extremely rare. And to add something else to this, if it were a suicide, I don't believe it's a suicide based on what I've read. I don't believe that.

This is a well educated man who held a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, US Army veteran. This was a smart, intelligent man, if he was going to Oh, and he was sorry, as a father of three as well should mention that. So he's got families well educated.

If he were going to end his life. I don't think this is the way he would go about it because he would know like, well, this is not an effective way to do this. Do you know that like this is an extremely ineffective way to I know, it sounds strange me talking about this, but like given that scenario that's laid out for you, it's just doesn't it doesn't match up.

Do you know what I mean? It's it's like, it's not strange at all to talk about it. It's it's, it's, it's it I go down 21 points. There's even more than that.

I mean, but but his body configuration, it's right there. It's odd. And there has been no, there's no documented evidence of pictures.

Yeah, there's, there's, there's, there's nothing put up put on the record. There's been open record requests. No police report released.

I mean, this is I mean, so, so, and I'm not, I don't mean to keep pushing people back to this

website, but there's a visual of where this monkey bars is. So the major park in Whitpain Township is called Wentz Run Park. So if you look at a satellite image, there's Wentz Run Park, and on the periphery is the township building, which includes the police station.

These monkey bars are literally you can hit the police station. I can hit the police station throwing a baseball. I mean, it's that close.

It is, and I don't own it, maybe 50 feet, maybe 70 feet. The parking lot's right there. The police department parking lot is, I don't know, 20 feet, 30 feet.

The idea that there was no cameras, and there's documented evidence that there's over 100 cameras in that park and around that police station and township building, and there's no footage. I mean, please, come on. I mean, keep going.

I mean, this is, this is, this is, it's odd. It says here, like he supposedly he arrived at the park via a back route that, yeah, that lacked security cameras. The park has security cameras at some main entrances and areas.

His car was later found parked in the way, suggesting he came in from a rear access point. And then this, this quote from the family was included, which I think is a good point. Why would Dante drive an hour away at 12am to an unknown township in the middle of the woods and use the back entrance to get to the park where there are no cameras to commit suicide? I mean, my first thought there was he'd have to know that area really well to know that.

Do you know what I mean? Like, from what I understand from this, he had not been there, or he's not at least like not that familiar with this particular area. So he wouldn't have known like, that's just luck, I guess. Well, not luck, but you know, you know what I mean? Like it's to find an area where it's a blind spot, and there's no cameras at all and not be seen any anywhere like that's just a weird coincidence, I would say.

It's almost infinitesimal. I mean, it's almost impossible. And by the way, that back entrance, there is also buildings on the back entrance.

There's only two entrances to physically get to that park. And it's on one side, if you look at a satellite image, there's only really two. And there's only really one main parking lot.

Well, there's buildings on that other side of the entrance. The idea that there's no cameras on those other buildings in a park that's surrounded by the police station, the township building, in what is considered a very affluent area, that it's, I don't know, that's very strange. That is very strange.

And by the way, all entrances, there's houses around there. The idea that there's no security cameras about any of the houses surrounding the area, this is not in the middle. This is what I would consider the idea that houses and businesses in that area didn't have any security footage.

It's almost impossible. I mean, it is. I think the only way that would be possible would be if it was a really, really old area.

But then I don't know, security is such an important thing, especially in the States. And it's pretty standard. You see it a lot where people have cam footage from their doorbells, something like that.

This is not a secluded area. This is a very, very well-populated area with a lot of houses and buildings. So there was a missing wallet.

It was never recovered at the scene. He had an identification card and keys found on him. And it's unexplained why he would have discarded his wallet.

The family kind of suggests that maybe there's foul play, robbery, something like that. Maybe someone took it. They said that this was pretty suspicious because valuables are not often missing in a suicide scenario.

This is kind of, I would say, yeah, like another point. I will just jump ahead for a second. The theory is that there's foul play.

So what do we mean by that? Maybe that it's a homicide, maybe that it was planned. And as we go through these points, it kind of becomes more and more clear. If they took his wallet, maybe he was robbed.

Maybe there's a reason why it was taken, how he was found. Obviously, we've just covered that. There's no suicide note, which in my mind would suggest that if it was a murder, it was maybe done quite quickly.

Because I think if you were going to try to frame it this way, frame it as a suicide, you would go to those steps. Unless there's a level of incompetence from whoever did this. Moving it forward, there's unexplained injuries on his body that were inconsistent with a hanging.

And again, his family is kind of indicating it's quite suspicious. The areas in particular are his neck, arms, shoulders, ribs, buttocks, and groin, and blunt force injuries as well. This was not explained by the authorities.

And obviously, it suggested that maybe there was a struggle or an assault of some description, which obviously lends more weight to this homicide theory. What say you on this front? Because this goes into the autopsy, which we'll get into, but that right there should tell you quite a lot, right? We can't get in the autopsy because it hasn't been released. I mean, that'd be hard.

They found multiple contusions all over the body. The authorities would not let the family see the bodies for after two days after he was found. This is what drives me crazy.

Because it's like, surely all of this is standard procedure. You let the family see the body. It's a

standard thing we see.

Identify the body. Is this your son, father, et cetera? I don't know, actually. Is an autopsy always conducted as standard? Or is it only in the event that there's suspicion? I'm not a coroner.

I'm not an expert. But I think when a relatively healthy 35-year-old man, black man, shows up supposedly hanging from monkey bars in a predominantly white suburb that on the record has no murders, that's questionable at best. And you put these 21 anomalies to the test.

I think it's unfathomable. The idea that the autopsy was originally denied, then when the family and the protesters showed up at the park and protested, then apparently there was an autopsy and it's never been released. In their defense, perhaps the family didn't want it released.

But I don't think that's the case. I think they muscled the family. I don't want to get into details I don't feel comfortable talking about.

I think this was a relatively family that probably didn't have a lot of means, probably was intimidated by the police, and was very uncomfortable about speaking up. Put this in perspective. You have your son or your brother or your father, he's a father of three, is identified as being dead and the body is withheld for two days.

This is like the Keystone Cops. You cannot make this stuff up. The idea that, why are they holding the body? Why are you holding the body? Why are you not disclosing the body? The idea that you refused to originally do an autopsy, what's someone going to do when they go see the body? The coroner's there, the police are there, the detective's there, the assistant DA's probably there.

What's someone going to do to identify the body? You're not going to be touching it. You normally pull down the sheets and yes, that's odd. The idea that they prevented the family from seeing the body for two days, that's odd.

It says here that the relatives eventually hired a private medical examiner to conduct an independent autopsy. Do you know at all if they received- I have no idea if that happened. I know that hasn't been released.

I don't know if that's because of the family. I don't know if that's the police. I don't know that's the district attorney.

I do not know that. From what I understand, this is separate from the original coroner. This is like they hired someone else to do it and they've been- because they didn't want to wait forever because obviously it'd been three years and still nothing had been released.

I don't know if maybe they're still waiting on that. I don't think people realize how expensive an autopsy is. I mean, it is a very expensive endeavor.

If you're someone not of means to hire, first of all, to find someone that'll do it. You have to

understand there are people that just won't do an outside autopsy because they're intimidated by the police or the government. That's interesting.

I'll give you an example. Let's say someone relatively young, heaven forbid, is playing baseball or softball and they have an incident and they can't be revived. They die.

That's an automatic autopsy. The idea that that didn't happen in this case is unfathomable. If you have a case where, let's say, a youngster dies unexpectedly, even in the case that the family says, I don't want the body autopsied, I want to preserve the body for whatever, generally the government will do it anyway.

That's just the way it works. For a whole bunch of reasons. It doesn't have to be a child.

It could be an adult. Was this person murdered? You cannot make this up. Like I said, it's like the Keystone Cops.

Either it was covered up because they were involved or it was covered up and they didn't do the investigation because they didn't want the bad publicity and because they needed to open up that part of the park so that the white kids could play Saturday morning on the monkey bars. By the way, it would have been very easy to close that part of the park. It's on the far end.

You could have put police tape around it and continue the investigation, but they were in a hurry to open up the park and open up the crime scene very quickly. There was a reason for that, too. That wasn't happenstance.

This is where it starts to kind of... How can I put this? I'm going to skip ahead for a second and just address what you just said. One of the points I have here is Juneteenth weekend in a white neighborhood. It says, the timing and location of Jones's death carries disturbing racial overtones.

It occurred during Juneteenth weekend, a holiday celebrating black emancipation in an overwhelmingly white and affluent township. As Jones's brother noted, you've got to think this is Juneteenth weekend. You find a black male dead in a majority all white township supposedly hung.

The family finds it not suspicious, in their words, that a black man would be found hanging in a predominantly white neighborhood on that weekend. This contextual anomaly has fueled speculation that Jones's death could have been an act of racial violence made to look like a suicide. At minimum, the optics of the situation were deeply alarming and should have prompted a more careful investigation than what was initially conducted.

This is something I want to...

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