

George Floyd

Chantel Castile

Minneapolis College

On May 25, 2020, I was surfing on Facebook and came across a live video of a man being detained by the Minneapolis Police, I felt like I was there, but could not help, it was one of the worst feelings I have ever felt.

I could not believe what I was watching this in the middle of the day on a live stream, in my city, a Black man begging for his life, stating over and over again that he can't breathe, to please let him up, calling out to his mama, knowing he was going to die at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department.

I watched this video repeatedly, along with the trial, and it affects me the same each time, making me feel hopeless, sad, and feeling as if I can't breathe either. I swear I stopped breathing during the whole time Chauvin was on George's neck. As I watched I could not believe how Derek Chauvin kept digging his knee into Mr. Floyd's neck, while George is begging for his life, and bystanders screaming and begging to please let him up, and then you see he's gone, and Derek remains on his neck even after EMS arrives.

Watching Derek Chauvin on George's neck gave me anxiety, I had all kinds of feelings rushing through my body. The look on Chauvin's face while he was killing George showed that he intended on doing that and felt like he was going to get away with it, he had to have felt George slip away, and he continued to stay on his neck, and when he finally got off George's neck, he walked away with his head held high and took his gloves off and acted as if nothing just happened.

I am traumatized for life after watching that video, every time I see the police, I get nervous,

and I get very anxious. As I was a victim many years ago at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. I do feel that many officers have become officers to get away with doing these types of things to people of Color.

I am so glad that justice has prevailed in some of these cases, but it's really not justice when a life has been taken. It is so sad that people have so much hatred towards another person because of the color of their skin.

I just don't understand, but now thinking about it, the world has been conditioned long ago to have these feelings towards people of Color. I feel like George's life was sacrificed to bring about change in the world, his brother stated that "George wanted to change the world." The memory of George Floyd being murdered in broad daylight will forever be embedded in my memory, and just thinking about this has made me feel anxious, and afraid for my sons, brothers, and for anyone of Color.

I didn't know George, but I felt like I did, I just wanted to jump through my phone and help him. I don't care what color he was, he was a human being, and he deserved to be treated as such. He lost his life over a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill, because of an overzealous police officer that clearly had a chip on his shoulder against people of Color. I am so pleased to know Chauvin must spend every moment for the next 25 years behind bars and in confinement. I pray for all the families that have had to deal with an encounter of the police killing their loved one. If it wasn't for cell phone video these officers around the world that commit these killings would get away with murder, and many do.

Rest in Paradise George Floyd, Amir Locke, Breonna Taylor, Ahmadu Arbery, Philando Castile and many, many more that are killed from the police who are supposed to protect and serve.