

# Shooting of Jonathan Ferrell

On September 14, 2013, **Jonathan Ferrell**, a former college football player for the **Florida A&M University Rattlers**, was shot and killed by police officer Randall Kerrick in **Charlotte, North Carolina**.<sup>[1]</sup> Kerrick was charged with voluntary manslaughter.

## 1 Shooting

Ferrell was unarmed at the time he was shot.<sup>[2]</sup> He crashed his car, went to a house and “banged on the door”, apparently looking for help. The resident called police, and three officers came.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Ferrell then ran towards them, whereupon one of the officers fired a taser at Ferrell and missed.<sup>[1]</sup> Kerrick then opened fire on Ferrell, hitting him ten times and killing him.<sup>[1]</sup>

## 2 Legal proceedings

The day following the shooting, Kerrick was charged with voluntary manslaughter, and was released on \$45,000 bail from jail. On January 21, 2014, a grand jury declined to indict Kerrick with voluntary manslaughter.<sup>[5]</sup> On January 27, a second grand jury did indict Kerrick on a voluntary manslaughter charge.<sup>[6]</sup> On May 14, 2015, the city of Charlotte settled a lawsuit with Ferrell’s family for \$2.25 million.<sup>[7]</sup> On August 21, 2015, a 26th District judge declared a mistrial in the case after the jury reached a deadlock, with eight jurors on one side and four on the other.<sup>[2]</sup> The Attorney General of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, said that the state would not re-try Kerrick.<sup>[3]</sup>

## 3 Reaction

On August 21, 2015, after the mistrial declaration, protesters took to the streets of Charlotte. Several areas of the city were shut down as a result, and two people were arrested.<sup>[8]</sup>

On October 2, 2015 Kerrick resigned from the police force.<sup>[3]</sup>

## 4 References

[1] Katz, Jonathan M. (August 22, 2015). “Mistrial for Charlotte Police Officer in Death of Unarmed Black Man”.

*New York Times*. Retrieved August 22, 2015.

[2] Cooke, Christina (August 22, 2015). “Mistrial for officer and no justice for unarmed man: family vows to fight on”. *The Guardian*. Retrieved August 22, 2015.

[3] “Police officer accused in fatal shooting resigns from force”. *The Charlotte Observer*. The Associated Press. October 8, 2015. Retrieved October 14, 2015.

[4] Reuters (August 21, 2015). “Mistrial for Police Officer Who Killed Unarmed Black Man in North Carolina”. *Newsweek*. Retrieved August 22, 2015.

[5] Ford, Dana (January 21, 2014). “No indictment for Charlotte officer who shot Jonathan Ferrell”. *CNN*. Retrieved August 22, 2015.

[6] McLaughlin, Elliott (27 January 2014). “2nd grand jury indicts officer in shooting of ex-FAMU football player”. *CNN*. Retrieved 22 August 2015.

[7] Gordon, Michael (May 14, 2015). “Charlotte settles with Jonathan Ferrell’s family for \$2.25 million in police shooting”. *The Charlotte Observer*. Retrieved August 22, 2015.

[8] “Two arrested during Kerrick trial protests in Charlotte”. *WTVD*. August 21, 2015.

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### 5.1 Text

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