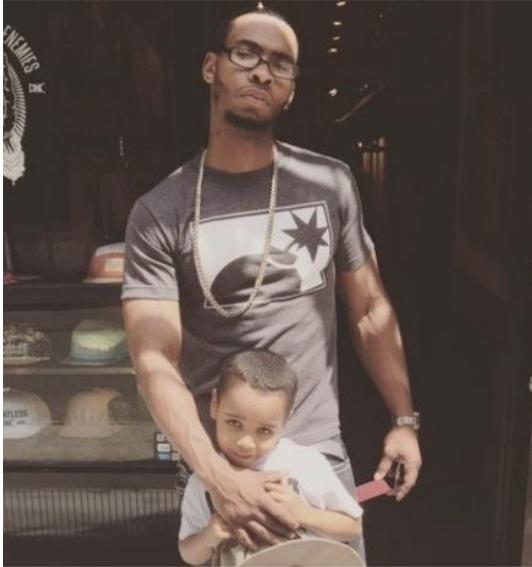


Please Support

Less Is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act (S.1343B – Benjamin / A.5493A – Mosley)



“They told me to get on the sidewalk, but I was on my bike so that would have been illegal. I wasn't part of the protest, although if I was that would have been my legal right.”
—Christen Conyers, 2015

Christen Conyers had been on parole for about sixteen months on the evening of June 22, 2015, when he rode his bike out of the Amsterdam Houses in Harlem.

A husband and a father to a then-7-year-old with sickle cell anemia, Conyers had served 5 years at Southport Correctional Facility in Pine City after pleading guilty to a weapon possession charge in 2008, when he was 20 years old. His first post-release job, was scheduled to start in a few weeks.

It was 7:30 p.m., his state-mandated curfew was at 8pm. Ten minutes later he'd be on the ground in handcuffs. Conyers, encountered protestors marching in the street, following a rally at nearby Frederick Douglass Circle to honor the 9 members of Charleston's Emanuel A.M.E. Church murdered the previous week. Minutes after the NYPD arrested one of the protest's lead organizers, police turned to Conyers.

"They told me to get on the sidewalk, but I was on my bike so that would have been illegal. I wasn't part of the protest, although if I was that would have been my legal right." Conyers was detained by police and charged with obstruction. A criminal judge released him on his own recognizance the day after his arrest, but his parole officer immediately issued a violation warrant and re-arrested him for violating parole -- breaking one of the conditions of parole—failing a drug test, missing curfew, being arrested in conjunction with "any law to which I am subject," according to the New York State Parole Handbook—is grounds for a "technical" violation and can result in the parolee's immediate incarceration without bail. Thus, instead of starting his new job, Conyers spent more than six months behind bars, waiting to have a court date to prove his innocence.

*Source: Gothamist. "Trapped in Parole: How Biking in the Street Sent a Man to Jail for 6 Months", by Emily Whitford. December 17, 2015

(Over)

About the #LessIsMoreNY Campaign

#LessIsMoreNY is a statewide coalition of community groups, service providers, and public safety experts working together to pass the *Less Is More Act* to reduce jail and prison populations; support people who are subject to community supervision in the reentry process; promote safety and justice for families and communities; and save taxpayers money. We call on the Governor and Legislature to pass the bill, capture the savings that will result from reform, and reinvest those savings back into the communities most harmed by mass incarceration and crime.



For more info and to join #LessIsMoreNY, contact:

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