

Testimony of Jessica Lowe- Daughter of Clement Lowe

My name is Jessica Lowe. Clement Lowe was my father. At the age of 62, he was brutally beaten by correctional emergency response team officers at Green Haven Correctional Facility, subjected to water hosing, and completely demoralized. He was then denied medical care and medication, and on November 7, 2023, he died. I've chosen to provide this testimony because I believe my father would want his story shared. I understand that my father was incarcerated, he was more than that. He was a human being, and the injustice and inhumane treatment he endured is outrageous and unacceptable.

In the summer of 1998, at the age of 14, I had the opportunity to observe my father's unwavering dedication to his business. He was the sole proprietor of a restaurant situated directly opposite the Barclays Center on Flatbush Avenue. His daily routine was rigorous: rising at 5 AM, he would drive from our home in Queens to Brooklyn to open his establishment. By 8:30 AM, he would return to Queens to collect my sister and me, bringing us to the restaurant to spend the day with him.

Our days typically concluded around 10 PM when we closed the restaurant, only to repeat the cycle the following morning. Throughout this time, I witnessed my father's generosity as he often provided free meals to those who entered claiming they couldn't afford to pay. His exceptional work ethic and tireless efforts profoundly influenced my perspective, instilling in me the belief that with dedication, any goal is attainable.

My father's commitment extended beyond his business; he was a devoted parent who deeply loved his children and consistently provided for his family. This experience occurred before an unfortunate turn of events led to his imprisonment, during which time he was still a respected businessman in the community.

Despite his incarceration, my father played an integral role in my life from birth until his passing. His influence shaped me into the woman I am today and contributed significantly to my success. I now manage Clinical Operations for studies that save numerous lives. My father emphasized the importance of education to all his children. He remained actively involved in my daughters' lives, inspiring and motivating them despite physical separation. One of my daughters even wrote and published a medical research paper at just 16 years old, a testament to his influence.

My father was the kindest person I've ever known, with an incredibly big heart. We were extremely close, speaking every week, sometimes 2-3 times. He never missed an opportunity to call, and our conversations were filled with laughter and joy. Throughout his 26 years of incarceration, he always maintained a positive outlook and faith in eventual freedom. This incident, however, broke him in a way I had never witnessed before.

October 10, 2023: I received a call from a counselor/Rehabilitation Program Specialist at Upstate Correctional stating that my father was transferred from Green Haven and he asked her to call me and let me know where he is. The lady also noted that she will see my father at least 3x daily as he will be in a special rehabilitation program.

October 11, 2023: My father called me crying (which is a first in his 26years of incarceration) and outlining the details of the severe beatdown at GreenHaven. He also stated that he was in excruciating pain, and he has been telling Upstate nurses that he needed to go to the hospital due the pain his head where he was beaten with the baton. He was frustrated that he was being ignored. My father detailed the incident to me noting:

Beatdown occurred at Housing Location 3331 (West Side) on 07Oct2023 at an estimated 8:20am. He was dragged through courtyard B and C around 8:45am. Further dragged to the hospital at 8:50am and then dragged to H block at 9am. After which he was water hosed in his underwear only and left to sit in his feces for hrs and then thrown on a bus and sent to Upstate several hrs later.

Details of beatdown: On the morning of 07Oct2023, 7 Officers dressed in black stormed in his cell 3331 where he was seated on the bed. They proceeded to beat him. The officers stood on each hand and twisted their shoe heel on the back of his hand. One officer tried to pull his eyes out of the socket. The others continuously beat him with a baton in his head, stomach, and rib. Kindly note that my dad is in his 60's. After throwing him on a bus the said day, he was sent to Upstate.

October 14, 2023: My father called again stating that he was in pain. His voice started to sound different. I asked him if he had a cold or if he was getting sick and he just stated that he needed to go to the hospital, but they will not send him. He said his request to go to the hospital was being ignored.

October 17, 2023: My father complained about the pain in his head and said he can hardly hold a pen and feed himself. His voice started sounding weak.

October 20, 2023: Dad called and complained of excruciating pain in his head. He stated that his head was very tender to the touch on the side where he was beaten. He sounded sick.

October 23, 2023: Dad called and said it was really rough with not feeling well.

October 26, 2023: Dad called and sounded extremely weak. I told him that he sounded like when he was having a stroke in 2022. I asked him what is going on. He proceeded to tell me that his medications have finished for weeks and the facility did not give him a refill. He stated that he continuously requested a refill and did not receive it. Atorvastatin 40mg 2@bedtime, Aspirin EC 81mg daily, Metformin 500mg 1tablet 2x daily. After hearing this I called the facility twice on

27Oct2023 to confirm the sites Standard Operating Procedures as it relates to refilling an inmate's prescription. I also expressed concerns of my dad getting another stroke because he was not taking his medicine and also based on his symptoms, he appeared to have an elevated sugar level, I also called Albany Regional Medical Director Office at 518-457-8126 to report the issue re medical care. I spoke to a gentleman who documented all the details of my dad's medication being withheld and also the fact he needed to be seen at the ER for injuries from the beatdown. The gentleman stated that he would pass the information on to the appropriate parties. I called back Upstate to get an update on my father's situation and spoke to Bethany and NA Downer, who stated that a nurse went to take my dad's vitals. I expressed concerns that merely taking him temp and BP will not be indicative of a high sugar level. I expressed that he needed to be seen by physician and go to ER based on his symptoms. They ignored.

October 29, 2023: Dad called and confirmed that he received his medication on 27Oct2023. He stated that the NP took his vitals on 27Oct, and his BP was 120/80. He sounded even weaker than the last time I spoke to him.

November 1, 2023: Dad called, and it was the worst that I have ever heard him. He was **slurring** in his speech and tongue sounded heavy. He expressed **severe dry mouth and frequent urination**. He sounded like he had a stroke, and he was dying. After speaking with him, my best friend (who is the Medical Director of a hospital) and I contacted the Facilities medical department and begged them to please take him to the ER. A NA Davis in the Infirmary answered the phone on Nov1,2023(call made from Dr. Thomas phone) and stated that "Everyone here is an adult, some of them are even older than I am. If they need medical attention, they should open their mouth and ask for it." Dr. Thomas stated that based on the patients' symptoms, they may not be strong enough. NA Davis explicitly stated that she doesn't care and hung up the phone.

November 2, 2023: I called Albany Regional Medical Director Office at 518-457-8126 to report the issue re medical care. I spoke to Ashley who took all the details. I expressed my concern that he had a stroke and possible neuro damage and that he needs to be seen urgently at the ER. She took the information and said she would pass it on.

November 4, 2023: I booked a last-minute flight from West Palm Beach to visit my dad at Upstate as he sounded like he was dying. When I arrived in RRU/SHU visiting room, I was instructed to sit at J4 and did so. After waiting for a period, the CO stated that I should go to B1 for the visit. When I got there, I was shocked as my father was unrecognizable. He looked extremely emaciated and appeared to have lost over 20-30lbs. He was the only inmate sitting at B (hence isolated). His pupils appeared dilated, and he had the stare of someone with a stroke. The CO asked him if he wanted to go back in his wheelchair and he nodded yes. He was unable to make a complete sentence. His mouth was draining saliva which I had to wipe continuously.

He did not speak much and after 45 minutes he gestured that he wanted to return to his cell. I confirmed by asking him if that is what he wanted and he said yes.

The trauma of what happened to my father has deeply impacted me and my family. The pain of knowing his suffering - which could have been avoided if he had been treated as a human being - persists and, even with therapy, impacts my ability to perform daily tasks. This tragedy has profoundly affected everyone who knew and loved him.

I believe that my father's story underscores the urgent need for reform in our correctional system to prevent this type of inhumane treatment in the future. As a first-world country, we must do better in treating all individuals, even those convicted, with the dignity and respect they deserve as human beings.