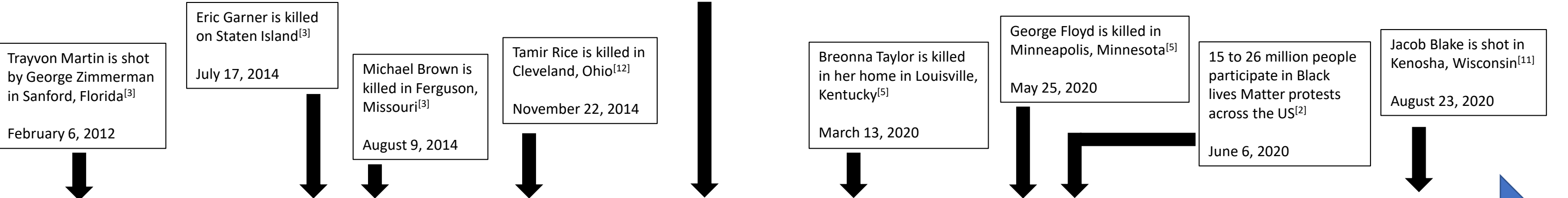


The 9+ Year History of

BLACK LIVES MATTER

“Although the 2008 election of President Barack Obama caused some to think a brand new chapter of post racial life had begun, the advent of cellphone cameras has reminded us that many old features of American life have remained unchanged ... Until the racial dominance at the heart of this centuries old reoccurrence is renounced, rejected and replaced with justice, we need not wonder, ‘What’s going on.’”^[10]

Carlton Waterhouse



Foundation and Growth

Influence in 2020

Alicia Garza writes her *A Love Letter to Black People* Series on Facebook. Founds Black Lives Matter with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi^[3]
July 2013

“They are much better organizers than I was when I was their age, and I am confident that they are going to take America to new heights.”^[7]
President Barack Obama on Black lives Matter protesters in Ferguson

Black Lives Matter organizes a national 8 minutes, 46 second seconds of silence for George Floyd during protests across the nation^[9]
June 4, 2020

The WNBA joins Black Lives Matter to dedicate their 2020 season to Breonna Taylor^[4]
July 25, 2020



“Say Her Name”: The WNBA Opens Its Season by Dedicating It to Breonna Taylor”, by Stuart Emmrich, July 27, 2020, <https://www.vogue.com/article/wnba-opens-season-with-breonna-taylor-tribute-black-lives-matter>

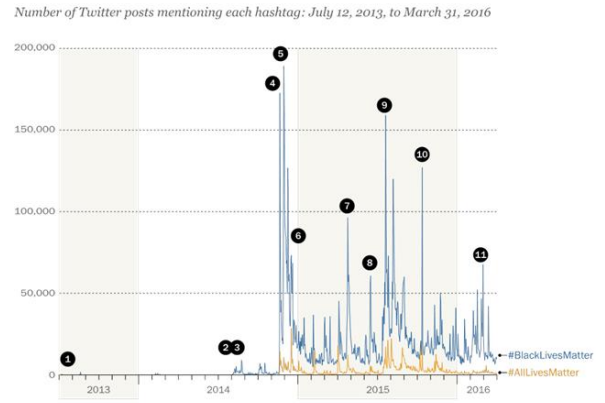
“I continue to be surprised at how little Black lives matter. Black people. I love you. I love us. Our lives matter.”^[3]
Closing lines from the final *A Love Letter to Black People* post

#BlackLivesMatter first appears on Twitter^[1]
July 13, 2013



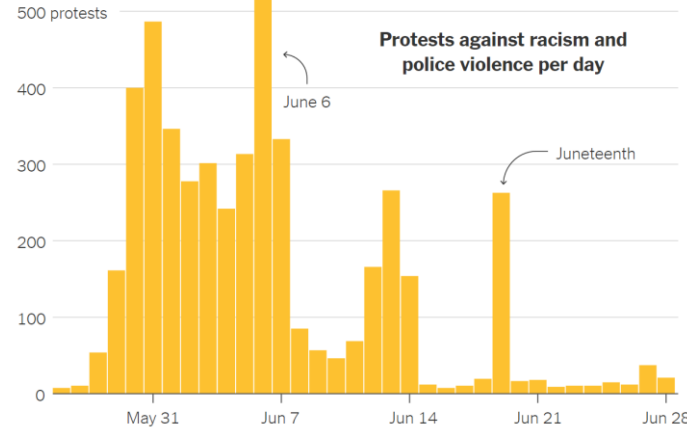
Photo credit: Bklivesmatter. (2013, July 20). [Tweet]

From July 12, 2013, to March 31, 2016, #BlackLivesMatter was used eight times as often as #AllLivesMatter



- 7/13/13 Hashtag #BlackLivesMatter first appears on Twitter
- 7/17/14 Eric Garner dies in N.Y. after being arrested
- 8/9/14 Michael Brown is killed during an encounter with police officer in Ferguson, Mo.
- 11/22/14 Tamir Rice is killed by police in Cleveland while playing with a toy gun
- 11/24/14 Prosecutor announces there will be no indictment in Michael Brown case
- 12/20/14 Two police officers are killed in N.Y. while sitting in their patrol car
- 4/19/15 Freddie Gray dies in Baltimore while in police custody
- 6/17/15 Shooting at church in Charleston, S.C., kills 9 people
- 7/13/15 Sandra Bland is found hanged in Texas jail cell
- 10/13/15 Bernie Sanders defends #BlackLivesMatter in debate
- 2/28/16 2016 Oscars

“The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter emerges: Social activism on Twitter”, by Monica Anderson, August 15, 2016, <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2016/08/15/the-hashtag-blacklivesmatter-emerges-social-activism-on-twitter/>



“Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History”, by Larry Buchanan, Quoctrung Bui, and Jugal Patel, July 3, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>

“What’s really been the priority of 2020 and continues to be our priority as we move into 2021 is really taking advantage of this moment. We didn’t anticipate that everything would change, but as everything’s changing, it’s imperative that we not just kind of tinker around the edges with fundamentally unjust systems, but that we actually take this moment to transform the world in which we live.”^[5]

Melina Abdullah, cofounder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles

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