

## Haunting Traffic Stop



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### A Haunting Traffic Stop Evelyn Dove Coleman

As I left Duke University about 7:30 a.m. on April 28th, I passed by a scene on the Ramp to Cameron Boulevard that haunts me. Two police cars with blinking lights were parked behind a car with a young Black man sitting in the driver's seat, alone. I had to slow down and move to the left to pass by the three cars. As I looked to my right, I saw the look of absolute terror on the young driver's face. I began to pray for him. "Lord," I prayed, "Please protect this young man."

We are unfortunately living in a climate where there have been so many instances of families experiencing death across the country. What has happened to America? Whatever has caused this culture needs to be arrested. Those officers sworn to protect the public can actually do so without bias and discrimination.

When I was learning to drive, one of the rules I was given was, "If you find yourself going in the wrong direction, do not keep on barreling ahead. Stop and seek directions." The person who gave me that advice recounted how he had gone 50 miles out of the way one night trying to find his destination. He passed by service stations and other motorists, but he did not stop to ask for help

before he had wasted an hour.

That wise advice is applicable in our country today. Don't keep doing the same thing expecting a different result. Examine what is causing so much disorder in certain police and sheriff interactions. What is at the root of the matter? Let's seek directions from psychologists, clergy, attorney generals, Harvard's Skip Gates, and others to solve this extreme problem. Don't keep barreling down the road. Stop, so not one more Black man is beaten or killed this way.

Evelyn Dove Coleman established PathChoice Ministry in 1991 in Chapel Hill where she had been the first Black Student Body Secretary at UNC Chapel Hill in the 70s. She was the first black woman Assistant City Attorney in Charlotte, NC and served as a JAG in the US Air Force. Reach out at [EvDove03@yahoo.com](mailto:EvDove03@yahoo.com).