

**NEWS SERVICE  
BREAKING NEWS  
11 AM TODAY  
VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE**

**Civil Rights Attorney John Burris Announces the Investigation and Possible Criminal Charges Against Gateway Care and Rehabilitation Center on Behalf of the family of African-American and Korean War Veteran Costell Akrie Who Died on April 4, 2010**

*"Gateway should be closed and the owners criminally prosecuted if the widely published accounts are true that Gateway pressured its virus stricken employees to go back to work while at the same time allowing its employees to come in contact with patients without wearing masks and gloves."*

Civil Rights Attorney John Burris

*"Gateway handed Mr. Akrie a death sentence." . . . 'How many other patients, like Mr. Akrie and his family, were forced to face death in such a cruel way."*

Civil Rights Attorney Adante Pointer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**What: John Burris Virtual Press Conference announces the investigation and possible Criminal Charges Against Gateway Care and Rehabilitation Center on Behalf of the family of African-American Costell Akrie, a Hayward CA resident Who Died on April 4, 2010**

**When: Monday, April 13, 2020, at 11:00 AM**

**Who: Attorneys John Burris & Adante Pointer, Diane Akrie, Scott Akrie, and the Family of Deceased Gateway Care Center Patient, Costell Akrie**

**Where: YOU CAN JOIN/WATCH THE PRESS CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74458542839?pwd=dDRYMnFBShpRU29RSEhKd0c0eHlNUT09>

**Meeting ID: 744 5854 2839**

**Password: 011217**

**Join by phone :**

**1-347-871-9891 (PIN: 678440432)**

**Oakland, CA---**The family of Costell Akrie sent Mr. Akrie to a Hayward California facility from Kaiser for physical rehabilitation. The 87-year old African American Hayward resident was not experiencing any flu, cold, or COVID 19 symptoms when he entered the facility but died weeks later at the Gateway Care Rehabilitation Center after contracted the Coronavirus.

Mr. Akrie's family has retained Civil Rights attorneys John Burriss and Adante Pointer to seek answers about the condition at Gateway that lead to the death of Costell Akrie and five other patients in addition to the COVID-19 infection of 59 others at the Hayward facility.

Today at 11 AM Civil Rights attorneys John Burriss & Adante Pointer will announce initial findings in their investigation into the death of the family's patriarch and possibly legal and potential criminal action against Gateway.

Scott Akrie, "Scott" Mr. Arkie's son, is shocked that as a family, they were kept in the dark about their father's condition. Scott said that in mid-March, his father was admitted into Kaiser San Leandro, who transferred Mr. Akrie to Gateway for physical rehabilitation. At the time of the transfer, Mr. Akrie had not exhibited any coronavirus symptoms. However, after almost a month at Gateway, surprisingly, he was diagnosed with the virus and quickly died just four days after being told he was now positive.

The family believes that Mr. Akrie's coronavirus death was caused by Gateway's staff primarily because, for most of his stay at Gateway, he had a single room, and his only physical contact was with the staff.

Additionally, while Mr. Akrie was a resident, it has been publicly reported from several news sources that 9 people have died. As many as 53 Gateway staff and/or patients were infected by the Coronavirus. John Burriss says, " these numbers are so shocking an investigation is warranted." Burriss says, "notwithstanding the national epidemic and its seemingly disproportionate impact on African American men something must be wrong when an African American elderly man enters a nursing care facility for treatment of one condition and later comes out dead with an entirely different condition" The family is rightfully concerned about whether Gateway Center 's care caused or contributed to Mr. Akrie's death."

Burriss says, "If the recent news reports are true, that Gateway Center was understaffed, without the necessary protective gear such as masks and gloves, and the sick staff was compelled to work, it is unconscionable."

Burriss goes on to say, "We believe that Hayward's Gateway Rehabilitation should be closed and the owners may be subject to criminal prosecution."

Mr. Akrie was married to his wife Dianne for almost 67 years and they have two adult children. The family, like others, were not allowed to have any communications with Mr. Akrie during the last 5 days of his life.

Attorney Pointer contends, "Gateway handed Mr. Akrie a death sentence" and says, "he wonders how many other patients, like Mr. Akrie and his family, were forced to face death in such a cruel way."

Mr. Akrie's family will be at today's ZOOM press conference and will be available for questions.

For more information:

Webpage re: Costell Akrie: <https://johnburrislaw.com/costell-akrie>

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