



**University Legal Services Releases Report on the Department of Mental Health, Anchor
Mental Health Services, and the Death of Jean Edny Louis**

For Immediate Release

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Washington--University Legal Services (ULS) released a [report](#) today calling on the District of Columbia City Council to investigate and hold a public hearing on how and why Jean Edny Louis, an individual receiving public mental health services, was shot and killed by Metropolitan Police Department in his Mt. Pleasant Home of twenty years.

Under ULS' federally mandated authority to investigate abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities, and with the consent of Mr. Louis' brother, ULS investigated the June 14, 2011 death of Jean Edny Louis, and the participating roles of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Anchor Mental Health Services (Anchor), and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

"City Council must hold a hearing on Mr. Louis' death," says Staff Attorney Dari Pogach, the lead investigator for ULS' report. "This is not the first time D.C. police have used lethal force against local residents experiencing a mental health crisis, and the public has a right to know what the City is doing to ensure the police will help, not hurt, individuals in crisis." Ms. Pogach went on to note that a recent study found nationwide up to half the individuals killed by police have a mental illness. MPD declined to release any information on Mr. Louis' death to ULS, citing a pending investigation of the officers involved in the incident. MPD provided the same response to ULS' request for records of similar incidents involving MPD shootings of individuals with mental illness for the five years prior to Mr. Louis' death.

ULS' investigation concludes that Anchor, a Department of Mental Health certified provider, failed to sufficiently support Mr. Louis in the months prior to and on the day of his death. Despite acknowledging Mr. Louis needed a crisis prevention plan, Anchor failed to create and implement an effective plan. Then, throughout the hours-long standoff between MPD and Mr. Louis, Anchor management could not be reached after multiple attempts, in violation of a D.C. requirement that such providers be available 24 hours a day in case of crisis. Anchor then produced an investigation that failed to meaningfully review its internal practices and did not critically examine the events leading up to Mr. Louis' death.

ULS is a private, non-profit organization that serves as the District of Columbia's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the rights of people with disabilities.