

# STAND UP FOR SEPHRA BURKS



**ANTONIO**  
(age 3)



**VIVIANNA**  
(age 6 mos.)

## STAND UP FOR SEPHRA BURKS

Tyrus Burks is deaf. In high school he met his wife, Sephra, who was also deaf in high school. They got married and had four beautiful children, Tyrus, Jr., Michael, Antonio, and Vivianna. The Burks lived at Colonial Tepeyac Apartments here in Dallas. Colonial Tepeyac was told by the Dallas Fire Department to install special strobe smoke alarms in the Burks' two story apartment. Colonial Tepeyac's management company, Marquis, did not install the correct number of strobe alarms upstairs and downstairs nor did the complex put the strobe in the bedroom.

In the early morning hours of January 9, 2005, a faulty power strip started a fire in the downstairs of the Burks' apartment home. The fire woke Tyrus, and he tried to put the fire out. The fire was too far advanced. Tyrus and Sephra raced from room to room to save their children. While Tyrus was waking up his oldest sons, Sephra with the baby in her arms went to find three year old Antonio. Sephra tried to exit to the hallway, but it was filled with fire. After the fire Sephra was found in the bedroom of their three year old son, Antonio, with baby Vivianna still in her arms. Sephra burned to death trying to save her children. Antonio and Vivianna died at their mother's side.

Sephra, Antonio, and Vivianna's lives could have been saved but for Colonia Tepeyac's and Marquis Management's FAILURE to give EQUAL PROTECTION to their DEAF tenants. The lawsuit against the apartment complex managers (Marquis) will begin trial on **Wednesday, April 23, 2008**. The trial will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dallas County Courthouse in County Court at Law No. 5 before Judge Mark Greenberg. Signing interpreters will be present throughout the trial.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please take the time to attend this trial even if only for a few hours. Make sure that the deaf community's voice is finally heard in Dallas. Stand up in support of Sephra, Antonio, and Vivianna and the deaf community by being present at this trial.

TEXT 214-864-5112 FOR MORE INFORMATION