

ABC's *Good Morning America*

05/04/23

7:01:05 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: This Morning; Deadly Subway Chokehold]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Deadly subway chokehold. What happened inside a New York subway car that led to a man's death. The protest and the fallout this morning.

(...)

7:09:25 p.m.

2 minutes and 15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Details; Subway Chokehold Death Ruled Homicide; Man Restrained on New York City Train]

ROBIN ROBERTS: Now to the fallout after a man was killed in a chokehold by a bystander in a New York City subway car. Whit Johnson is on the scene for us at the subway stop where it all happened. Good morning, Whit.

WHIT JOHNSON: Robin, good morning. This case is already getting strong reaction on all sides. New York City has had a number of alarming incidents recently on the subway. But this time, when a passenger decided to take matters into his own hands, it resulted in a man's death. A warning now: the video is disturbing. This morning, authorities now investigating this deadly choke hold caught on camera on a New York City subway. Witnesses say Jordan Neely, who is believed to be homeless, was shouting and threatening passengers when a 24-year-old Marine veteran jumps in, placing Neely in a chokehold. The disturbing video of Monday's altercation shows the veteran lying beneath Neely, holding him in a headlock position as the 30-year-old struggles and eventually loses consciousness. Neely was pronounced dead at the hospital. A medical examiner ruling it a homicide by compression to his neck.

PROTESTER: Because what people are constantly given is this narrative that homeless people are dangerous. People think that they can just take matters into their own hands.

JOHNSON: Some protesters gathering Wednesday calling for an arrest. The man who pinned Neely down was questioned and then released, telling investigators he was trying to help his fellow passengers who felt scared and threatened. Neely is recognizable to some in New York City as a Michael Jackson impersonator who frequently danced in Times Square. Records show he had been arrested more than 40 times on the subway. Mayor Eric Adams urging patience as the DA investigates.

NYC MAYOR ERIC ADAMS [on *CNN Primetime*, 05/03/23]: I was a former transit police officer and I responded to many jobs where you had a passenger assisting someone. And so, we

cannot just blatantly say what a passenger should or should not do in a situation like that. And we should allow the investigation to take its course.

JOHNSON: Now, authorities say in addition to his dozens of prior arrests, Neely also had a documented history of mental health-related issues. The Coalition for the Homeless called this a complete travesty and said this is another failure of providing critical mental health services to the homeless population. George?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Whit. Thanks very much.