



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Shannon Carbone

Phone: 303-441-3804

scarbone@bouldercounty.org

Press Release

The District Attorney's Office announced today that the investigation and legal analysis of law enforcement officers discharging their firearms at Trenton Dunham on May 12, 2022 has been completed. The members of law enforcement who discharged their weapons were Commander Josh Bonafede, Deputy Jeff Black, and Officer Jon Allendorf, of the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and the University of Colorado Boulder Police Department, respectively. The shots fired did not hit Mr. Dunham. The incident took place in the area of Table Mesa Drive and Moorhead Avenue in Boulder, Colorado

The Critical Incident Team for the 20th Judicial District, also known as the Boulder County Investigation Team ("BCIT"), investigated this case. This multi-agency team is designated to investigate use-of-force incidents in which any law enforcement officer used deadly, or potentially deadly, physical force against a person while acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. Following this incident, law enforcement quickly notified the BCIT. The BCIT responded and conducted a thorough investigation. Consistent with protocol, neither the BCSO nor CUPD participated in the use-of-force investigation involving Commander Bonafede, Deputy Black, and Officer Allendorf.

This office is prosecuting Mr. Dunham for the relevant events that took place in Greeley, Broomfield, and Boulder. This announcement, and the decision of the District Attorney, is not to be construed as commentary on those criminal charges pending against Mr. Dunham. The charges are merely allegations. He remains innocent of the charges against him unless and until a jury finds him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The following is a brief summary of the findings contained in the District Attorney's report:

In Greeley, Mr. Dunham stole a Glock 43 handgun from his father's vehicle, Mr. Dunham shot his father's home and vehicle several times, and proceeded to steal an unlocked green Honda CRV.

In Broomfield, Mr. Dunham used the stolen Honda CRV to strike a victim's vehicle from behind on U.S. 36. Mr. Dunham attempted multiple carjackings at gunpoint on U.S. 36 and several witnesses reported seeing Mr. Dunham in possession of a firearm. Ultimately successful in a carjacking, Mr. Dunham fled the scene in a stolen white F150 truck.

Mr. Dunham drove the stolen truck rapidly and erratically onto the pedestrian section of the Pearl Street Mall. Mr. Dunham fled from law enforcement at a high rate of speed after officers attempted to stop him around 15th and Pearl Street. Then, officers successfully deployed stop sticks at Broadway & Baseline. However, Mr. Dunham failed to stop, even after the stolen truck's tires had been flattened.

As the suspect's vehicle approached Table Mesa and South 42nd, Mr. Dunham pointed his handgun first at Officer Collin Keith, then at Deputy Black. Officer Keith aired over the radio that the suspect was armed and had pointed the weapon at him. Additional members of law enforcement saw the handgun and observed Mr. Dunham point it in their direction. In voluntary interviews, Deputy Black, Commander Bonafede, and Officer Allendorf, explained that they fired their weapons to protect themselves and/or others in the area.

As the suspect's vehicle then approached the ramp to U.S. 36, he drove on the sidewalk near the bus stop. Several bystanders ran from the approaching truck to avoid being hit. A police officer used his vehicle to push the suspect's truck into a barrier in order to prevent it from crashing into the nearby civilians.

Under the circumstances, it was entirely reasonable for Commander Bonafede, Deputy Black, and Officer Allendorf to believe that Mr. Dunham was armed with a firearm, driving a stolen vehicle, and presented an imminent threat of deadly harm to themselves, fellow officers, and civilians. Based on Colorado law, the physical force that Commander Bonafede, Deputy Black, and Officer Allendorf used in response to Mr. Dunham was both reasonable and appropriate.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "When a member of law enforcement uses potentially deadly physical force, the integrity of these investigations is important to everyone involved and to our community. I am grateful that the Critical Incident Team conducted an independent and extremely thorough investigation. Based on our review of that investigation, it is quite clear that the officers acted lawfully and were legally justified in their response to Mr. Dunham's actions. Also, I want to recognize the rapid response, teamwork, and courage exhibited by law enforcement officers from multiple agencies in their efforts to apprehend Mr. Dunham."

The District Attorney's detailed report can be found at <https://bouldercounty.gov/district-attorney/officer-involved-shooting-decision-letters/>. For individuals interested in the process and findings, District Attorney Michael Dougherty will conduct a virtual Town Hall via Microsoft Teams at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7c2wpr> on Wednesday, July 27th, at 1:30 p.m. Questions can be submitted in advance via email to boulderda@bouldercounty.org. Community members are, also, able to call into the Town Hall by calling 720-400-7859 Conference ID: 460 799 225.

DA Dougherty conducts a Community Town Hall after every BCIT investigation in our continuing effort to be transparent and accessible, as well as address any questions.