



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

**For Immediate Release**

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## Press Release

The District Attorney's Office announced today that the investigation and legal analysis of the non-fatal shooting of Lorenzo Richardson on May 8, 2024, involving Longmont Police Department Master Police Officer Kristopher Ford has been completed. The incident took place at 1303 Coffman Street, Longmont, 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, the Longmont Police Department ("LPD") quickly notified the BCIT. The BCIT responded and conducted a thorough investigation. Consistent with protocol, the Longmont Police Department did not participate in the investigation into the use of force by Longmont Police Officers.

This announcement, and the decision of the District Attorney, is not to be construed as commentary on the criminal charges, which are merely allegations, pending against Mr. Lorenzo Richardson. He remains innocent of the charges against him unless and until a jury finds him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Under the law, the District Attorney is required to make, and publicly disclose, the findings and conclusions which are the bases for not filing criminal charges against Officer Ford. As required by statute, those findings are detailed in the decision letter being released today and briefly summarized here:

At 1:37 p.m. on May 8, 2024, Rebecca Page called 911 to report Lorenzo Richardson assaulted her outside of her apartment at 1303 Coffman Street. The incident was captured on a Ring camera. Ms. Page reported that just before the assault, she heard yelling and screaming coming from Unit #1, where Reva Charles resides along with Richardson. Ms. Page reported to Dispatch that Richardson was back in the apartment with Ms. Charles and assaulting her. Additionally, Richardson was challenging officers to "bring everything because he was going to hurt or kill them" and that officers would be "down on their knees begging for forgiveness before him." Ms. Page told the dispatcher about these threats when she called 911, and then the dispatcher aired that out over the radio.

Law enforcement responded to the apartment building. Then, they recognized Lorenzo Richardson walking across Mountain View Avenue. Officers attempted to contact him and ordered him to stop, but Richardson refused. Instead, Richardson drew a large knife with his right hand. The knife had a brass-knuckle handle and an approximately 7.6 inch blade

Officers issued multiple commands to Richardson to stop and drop the knife. Officers fired four (4) less lethal rounds at Mr. Richardson. He still refused to comply and, instead, began running to the apartment building with the knife in hand. As Mr. Richardson sprinted toward the apartment, Police Officer Cody Tweedy attempted to fire his weapon, but was unsuccessful due his firearm's safety still being on. Officer Ford fired three shots just as Richardson reached the doors to the apartment building, where Ms. Charles was later confirmed to still be inside.

Mr. Richardson fell to the ground, injured, but continued refusing commands to drop the knife so that officers could provide medical aid. Again, officers used less-lethal rounds to compel him to drop the knife. Ultimately, he dropped the knife and medical aid was rendered. Richardson continued to be verbally aggressive with officers and spat on the officers rendering medical aid.

At the time of this incident, and as explained in detail in the decision letter, Mr. Richardson had pending cases. He had been ordered to receive competency (to stand trial) evaluations and competency restoration treatment in the community. Officer Ford was aware of and/or involved in a couple of Mr. Richardson's prior arrests. That history was relevant as to its impact on Ford's knowledge and assessment of possible risk to human life.

Based on our office's review of the investigation, Officer Ford was legally justified in using physical force. His actions were objectively reasonable in preventing the imminent use of unlawful physical force upon Ms. Charles, law enforcement officers, and any other individuals who may have been inside the apartment building. Officer Ford did not commit a criminal offense that can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "The Critical Incident Team conducted a thorough and independent investigation, which is important. Based on our review of that investigation, these law enforcement officers were justified in using force against Mr. Richardson. They moved quickly and bravely in response to a serious and quickly evolving threat."

The District Attorney's detailed report can be found on the [Officer Involved Shooting Decision Letters](https://www.bouldercounty.gov/districtattorney/officer-involved-shooting-decision-letters/) (https://www.bouldercounty.gov/districtattorney/officer-involved-shooting-decision-letters/) page on the Boulder County District Attorney's website.

DA Dougherty conducts a Community Town Hall after every BCIT investigation in our continuing effort to be transparent and accessible. For individuals interested in the process and findings, **District Attorney Dougherty will conduct a [Town Hall](https://bit.ly/LongmontPDMay2024OISTownHall) via Microsoft Teams at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.** Questions can be submitted in advance via [email](mailto:boulderda@bouldercounty.gov). (boulderda@bouldercounty.gov)