



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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Press Release

The District Attorney's Office announced today that the investigation and legal analysis of the actions of three law enforcement officers, Officer Michael Miranda, Officer Ben Hibel, and Officer Mackenzie Calvano, of the Louisville Police Department ("LPD"), on October 23, 2022, has been completed.

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 Louisville Police Department ("LPD") quickly notified the BCIT. The BCIT responded and conducted a very thorough investigation. Consistent with protocol, the LPD did not participate in the use-of-force investigation. The following is a summary of the findings contained in the District Attorney's report:

Mr. and Ms. Fredericksen had been married for seven years and just recently had their first child on October 14, 2022. Following the birth, Mr. Fredericksen had been acting scared and anxious and had not been sleeping for days. On October 21, 2022, Ms. Fredericksen found Mr. Fredericksen in a suicidal state, causing her to take him to the hospital for medical treatment.

In the morning hours of October 23, 2022, Mr. Fredericksen came into their room and began making concerning statements. Mr. Fredericksen suddenly lunged at Ms. Fredericksen, grabbed her by the throat, and began choking her. He also covered her mouth with his hand and tried to suffocate her. Ms. Fredericksen reported she thought she was going to die.

Mr. Fredericksen caused the following injuries to Ms. Fredericksen: purple bruising underneath her right eye, slight petechia on the outside of her right eye, scratch marks on her nose, redness behind her right ear, redness in the center of her neck by the collar bone, scratch marks on her neck, bruising on the top of both her wrists, and a laceration and swelling on the inside of her bottom lip.

After fighting back, Ms. Fredericksen was able to get free and call 911 where she reported that Mr. Fredericksen had choked her and tried to kill her. Louisville Police officers were dispatched to the Fredericksen's home for the domestic violent incident, involving strangulation and the attempt to kill Ms. Fredericksen.

While Ms. Fredericksen was on the phone with police, Mr. Fredericksen went into the bathroom and cut the left side of his neck a couple times, and then deeply cut the right side of his neck with a large butcher knife. Without medical intervention, Mr. Fredericksen may have died from the self-inflicted knife wounds because they were so severe.

Within seconds of entering the dark house, Officer Miranda observed the bathroom door opening and he asked Mr. Fredericksen if he was okay. Mr. Fredericksen then appeared backlit in the bathroom doorway, covered in blood, with a large butcher knife raised in his right hand, and stated, "no, I'm not, you're going to have to kill me." Officer Miranda gave several loud commands directing him to drop the knife. Mr. Fredericksen did not drop the knife, and instead began advancing quickly towards Officer Miranda with the large knife still raised in his right hand, closing the short distance to Officer Miranda. When Mr. Fredericksen moved forward with the knife, Officer Miranda fired on him. Officer Hibl and Officer Calvano, also, fired shots at the same time.

Under the circumstances, it was reasonable for Officer Michael Miranda, Officer Ben Hibl, and Officer Mackenzie Calvano to believe Mr. Fredericksen presented an imminent threat of deadly harm to themselves, fellow officers, Ms. Fredericksen, and her baby. Based on Colorado law, the involved officers were legally justified in using deadly physical force. They did not commit any crime that could be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "This scary domestic violence incident ended with the loss of a life, which is tragic. Although it happened very quickly, this incident will carry lifelong consequences for Ms. Fredericksen, her baby, and the other family members. In addition, for the officers who responded to this domestic violence call, I recognize there will be a lasting impact on them. Whenever police officers use deadly physical force, the ensuing investigation is important to all those involved and to this community. I am grateful that the Critical Incident Team conducted an independent and thorough investigation."

The District Attorney's detailed report can be found on the [Officer Involved Shooting Decision Letters page](https://bouldercounty.gov/district-attorney/officer-involved-shooting-decision-letters/) (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 11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022. Questions can be submitted in advance via [email](mailto:boulderda@bouldercounty.gov) (boulderda@bouldercounty.gov). Community members are, also, able to call into the Town Hall by calling 720-400-7859, Conference ID# 476 1 11 422# or join with us on the [web](http://bit.ly/3H9LaDg) (http://bit.ly/3H9LaDg).

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.