



## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 3, 2014

Lee Richards  
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### Officer-Involved Shooting Ruled Justified

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The 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office has completed an investigation into the officer-involved shooting that occurred in the late evening hours of May 20, 2014. Following careful review of the facts and evidence surrounding the incident, it has been determined that the officer's use of force against the suspect was reasonable, appropriate and justified.

At approximately 11:02 p.m. and 11:14 p.m. Colorado Springs Police Department received two calls from Laurence Rowley's wife that her husband several minutes earlier had left a message on her cellular phone that he had killed the family's German Shepherd and that he was making threats toward other family members who lived in Colorado Springs. Mrs. Rowley was out of town at the time she received the phone call. Mrs. Rowley also said that her husband had access to firearms and had threatened to shoot anyone who came to the house. Based on this information, officers were dispatched on a "check the welfare" call for service to 6656 Summer Grace Street.

Upon arriving at the residence, Officer Blank contacted Mrs. Rowley to obtain additional information that may assist in officers checking on Mr. Rowley's welfare. Mrs. Rowley notified the officers that Mr. Rowley had been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and, although he had recently been sober, it appeared that Mr. Rowley had been drinking and mixing his medications while she was out of town. Mrs. Rowley requested that the officers not tell Laurence Rowley who contacted the police.

Officer Blank made telephone contact with Laurence Rowley, who demanded to know who asked the police to call him, told the officer that someone shot his dog, and said that he would come out only if the officer told him who sent the police. The officer explained that it was an anonymous party who contacted the police. Laurence Rowley was agitated by the officer not providing him the information and hung up on the officer.

Officer Blank again attempted phone contact with Laurence Rowley. Mr. Rowley answered the phone and is believed to have said "I'm sorry I have to do this." At the same time, officers to the north of the residence observed the garage door open and Mr. Rowley exiting the garage with a gun in his hand in a shooting stance. Mr. Rowley pointed the gun directly at Officer Seeneth. Officers directed commands to Mr. Rowley which Mr. Rowley ignored and continued to approach Officer Seeneth with the gun in a "ready-to-shoot" position.

Officer Seeneth fired one shot at Mr. Rowley striking him in the left shoulder area. Mr. Rowley was transported to Penrose-St. Francis Hospital.

In an area near where Mr. Rowley fell to the ground after being shot in the shoulder, a 9 mm handgun was located. The lower panel of the garage door and the entry door between the kitchen and the garage had a bullet path that appeared to come from inside the house, through the door, through the garage door, and somewhere into the rock area on the north side of the driveway. A neighbor reported hearing a gunshot approximately 15 minutes prior to police arriving.

There were three dogs in the home including one German Shepherd. All of the dogs appeared to be healthy and were unharmed.

Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-1-707 provides that an officer is justified in using deadly force if he or she reasonably believes that it is necessary to defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably believes to be the imminent use of deadly physical force.

The District Attorney's Office reviews all incidents involving a discharged weapon by an officer. The facts and evidence from this investigation show that Officer Seeneth of the Colorado Springs Police Department acted reasonably at the time. Thus, based on the law and the facts, the investigation has determined that the officer was justified under the law of the State of Colorado. No criminal charges will be pursued.



menu



NEWS / LOCAL

2 hours

# D.A.: Officer-Involved Shooting Ruled Justified

COLORADO SPRINGS--The district attorney has ruled that an officer who fired at a man in his own driveway, was justified.

It happened around 11:00 p.m. on May 20th in the 6600 block of Summer Grace Street in Colorado Springs.

According to the 4th Judicial District Attorney's office, 43-year-old Laurence Rowley's wife called police, asking them to check on him after he made threats to other family members. While they were at the house, Rowley came out of his garage and pointed a gun at an officer. When he ignored commands to drop it, the officer fired, hitting Rowley in the shoulder.

There were no injuries to officers. Rowley was hospitalized, but is expected to survive.

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## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 27, 2014

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(719) 520-6084

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### Officer-Involved Shooting Ruled Reasonable and Justified

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The Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office has completed an investigation into the officer-involved shooting that occurred in Colorado Springs on Friday, May 30, 2014. Following careful review of the facts and evidence surrounding the incident, it has been determined that the officer's use of force against the suspect was reasonable, appropriate and justified.

Colorado Springs Police Officers were dispatched twice on May 30, 2014 to Mr. Chester Dean's residence at 6760 Holt Drive in reference to a concern that Mr. Dean was suicidal. During the second call, at 1:04 p.m., as Officer Detwiler was walking toward the residence, Mr. Dean fired his weapon toward two witnesses. Officer Detwiler took cover as other officers arrived on scene. Mr. Dean ignored repeated commands to drop the weapon and fired another round in the direction of the officers. Officer Detwiler fired a round that struck Mr. Dean in the hip area. Two officers provided first aid and secured Mr. Dean's weapon, a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun. Ballistics evidence found at the scene confirmed that Mr. Dean had fired two rounds from the weapon.

Colorado Revised Statutes Section 18-1-707 provides that an officer is justified in using deadly force if he or she reasonably believes that it is necessary to defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably believes to be the imminent use of deadly physical force.

The District Attorney's Office reviews all incidents involving a discharged weapon by an officer. The facts and evidence from this investigation show that Officer Detwiler of the Colorado Springs Police Department acted reasonably at the time. Based on the law and the facts, our investigation has determined that the officer was justified under the law of the State of Colorado. No criminal charges will be pursued.

Mr. Dean is facing several charges, including three counts of Attempted First Degree Murder of a Peace Officer. He is currently being held in the El Paso County jail on a \$500,000 bond. A Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for July 16, 2014. These charges are merely allegations. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.