

May 7, 2026

Ron Thomas
Chief of Police
Denver Police Department
1331 Cherokee Street
Denver, CO 80204

Re: Officer-involved shooting on November 2, 2025, on E. 51st Place, in Denver, CO, which resulted in injuries to two juveniles.

Dear Chief Thomas,

Our office has reviewed the investigation of the officer-involved shooting on November 2, 2025, in which Denver Police Officer Densel Barnes [23092] fired multiple shots, striking and injuring two juveniles. The incident was recorded by his body-worn camera as well as by surveillance cameras on houses in the neighborhood and has been thoroughly investigated by the Denver Police Department, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and the Colorado State Patrol. After reviewing the investigation, I have concluded that the use of force by Officer Barnes was legally justified and that criminal charges will not be filed against him.¹ This is the report of my decision pursuant to C.R.S. §20-1-114 (1).

Factual Summary

On the night of Saturday, November 1, 2025, a large house party was held at 5199 Biscay Ct. in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood of Denver. Many teenagers attended the party until about 2:00 a.m. on November 2, when daylight savings time ended and the time reverted to 1:00 a.m. mountain standard time. This officer-involved shooting occurred at 1:06 a.m.

About an hour before the shooting, Officer Densel Barnes and other officers responded to Biscay Ct. because of a report of a fight at the party. He did not go to the house, but while he was on the street, a man got out of a black pickup truck and approached him. The man was not

¹ Given the possibility that charges may be brought related to these events against non-police officers individuals described in this letter, and bearing in mind any applicable limitations in Rules 3.6 and 3.8 of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, the information in this letter is limited to what is necessary to explain the basis for my decision, as required by C.R.S. §20-1-114 (1). In light of these considerations, we will also forego a public meeting and public questions and answers regarding the findings in this letter. Anyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty.



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wearing a uniform, but he wore a badge on his belt and a gun in a holster that was covered by his jacket. He had a handheld radio. He told Officer Barnes that he was doing a “sting” on the house, watching for a “fugitive” inside the party. He indicated that others were working with him, waiting for the person to come out. Officer Barnes thought the man was a law enforcement

officer working with a fugitive task force, but he did not know for which agency. Before leaving the location, Officer Barnes told the man to contact DPD if they needed any help.

Later, Officer Barnes heard information dispatched about a suspicious pickup truck parked on Biscay Ct. with a man sitting in it. Recognizing the description of the truck, Officer Barnes relayed the information about his encounter with the man watching for a fugitive. His sergeant then asked Officer Barnes to return to Biscay Ct. to determine what agency the man worked for and whether there was a law enforcement action underway that DPD needed to be aware of at that location.

Officer Barnes returned to the area and Officer Ian Full [24082] joined him, driving a separate police vehicle. They parked their vehicles on E. 51st Place, then walked to the NW corner of the intersection of E. 51st Place (which runs east to west) and Biscay Ct. (which runs south to north). Upon hearing noises from the street north of them, they stopped and stood beside a SUV parked on the north side of E. 51st Place. The vehicle was a few feet west of Biscay Ct. The party was three houses to the north, on the west side of Biscay Ct.



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In his interview later, Officer Barnes told investigators he saw many people on Biscay Ct., and flashlights and a big commotion. He thought the *“fugitive team is out there doing their thing”* (arresting the wanted person leaving the party). Soon, the sound of gunshots rang out. The first shot was recorded by the officers’ body-worn cameras at 01:06:09 a.m. Several more shots followed. Officer Barnes used his radio to call for emergency assistance, saying, *“Code 10 cover. Code 10 cover.”*

Then, many more shots were fired. Officer Barnes heard rapid shots and the sound of a bullet passing overhead. The sound of the gunfire indicated that multiple guns were being fired. The gunfire was moving south on Biscay Ct. toward the officers, who stayed on the south side of the vehicle, using it for protection. The shooting lasted 13 seconds, ending at 01:06:21 a.m. At least 25 shots were fired on Biscay Ct.

Surveillance Camera Recordings

During the investigation of this incident, audio and video recordings from surveillance cameras on houses along Biscay Ct. were obtained. Three of these cameras showed four males firing handguns on Biscay Ct. during the thirteen seconds of shooting. Three of the shooters were moving south. After a five-second pause, one camera recorded Officer Barnes firing from 51st Place.

(1) A camera at 5199 Biscay Ct., focused east toward the street, recorded an unknown male moving left (north) on the video. He was moving north but firing shots to the south. He extended his arm to the south as he fired. Muzzle flashes and gunshot sounds were recorded.

(2) A camera located one house to the south at 5179 Biscay Ct., also focused east, recorded a second male moving to the right on the video. He was moving south toward 51st Place but was firing shots to the north. Muzzle flashes from his gun are seen. This person wore white shoes and a white tank top style Denver Nuggets jersey over dark long sleeves. The white jersey covering his torso is very noticeable. He has been identified as Abraham Duran-Campos (DOB 12/29/2005).

(3) A camera one house further south, but on the other side of Biscay Ct., at 18957 E. 51st Place, was focused to the west. It recorded the intersection at Biscay Ct. and 51st Place. It recorded a

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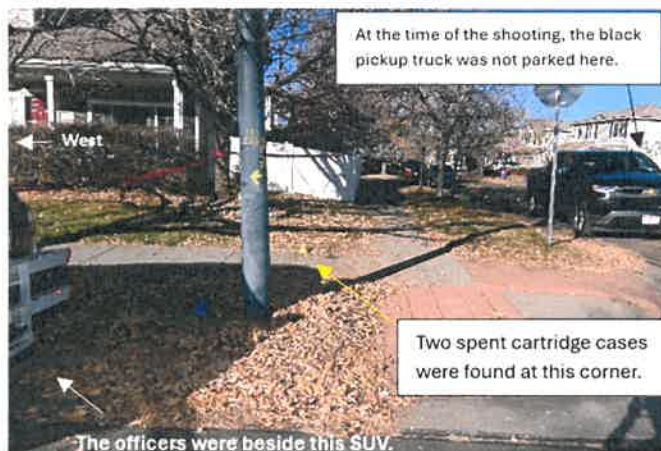
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third male shooter and a fourth male shooter. Both of these shooters have been identified and will be referred to as JUV 2 and JUV 1, because they are juveniles under the age of 18. This camera also recorded the muzzle flashes when Officer Barnes fired from 51st Place at JUV 1.

(3a) JUV 2, wearing a dark puffy parka, is seen on video from this camera. He ran south on Biscay Ct. and cut the corner of the intersection at 51st Place to turn right by running onto the grass lawn to his right. Four muzzle flashes from his handgun are seen while he was just a few feet north of the officers' position on the south side of the SUV on 51st Place. He then ran west on the sidewalk.



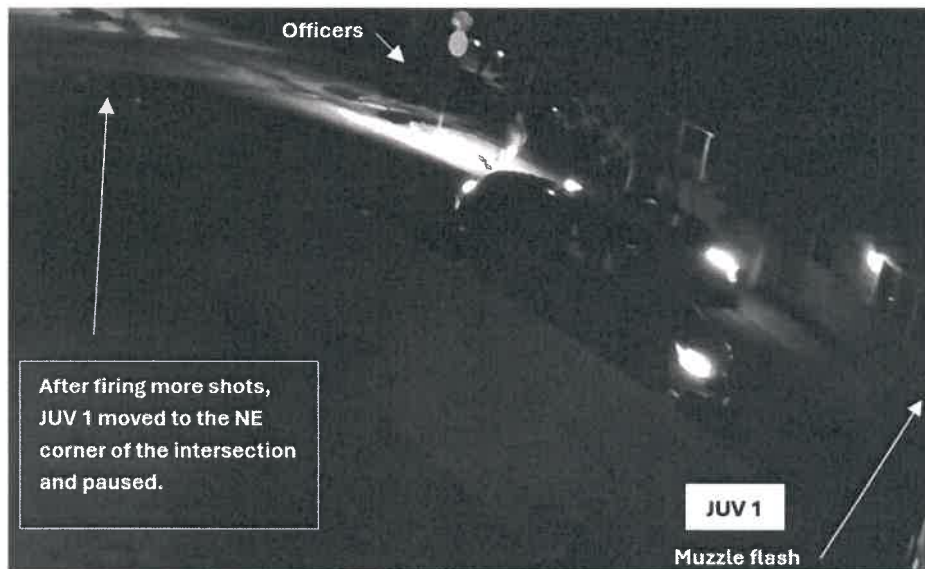
The photo below shows where JUV 2 turned west at the corner and fired four shots.



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(3b) JUV 1 was also recorded by this camera. He was a short distance behind JUV 2 on Biscay Ct. He is first seen on the video at the right edge of the frame. Just before JUV 1 came into camera view he was firing north. He was backing up, moving south, and facing north as he fired. After the muzzle flash seen on this photo below, he stopped momentarily and fired more shots. Three muzzle flashes from his gun are seen on the video.



After his last muzzle flash is recorded, JUV 1 moved south and east to the NE corner of the intersection, east of the officers. He is seen on the video backstepping the final steps to the NE corner. He stopped there and paused for a moment. Then he ran west across Biscay Ct. This is when Officer Barnes fired at him. The video shows muzzle flashes from Officer Barnes' gun, and 13 gunshots are heard.

The clothing worn by JUV 1 cannot be distinguished because the video is so dark. However, when watched in motion, his movements can be tracked on the video. Other evidence shows that he was wearing a camouflage jacket over a bright white shirt.

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Officer Barnes' Body-Worn Camera Recording

Officer Barnes had a body-worn camera attached to his uniform at the center of his chest. In the moments before he fired his weapon, his camera was facing east as he crouched beside the vehicle. Officer Full was close behind him. Officer Barnes' left arm was closest to the vehicle. He held his service weapon with a one-hand grip in his right hand, but he was not aiming it. At 01:06:26 a.m., he quickly formed a two-handed grip and extended both of his arms to the east and stood up. He aimed toward a dark area at the northeast corner of the intersection.

Portions of that area can be seen on the video, but some areas are very dark. His target appears on the video as a small white dot. Over the next seconds, however, the dot enlarges as it gets closer and we see it is a white shirt under the jacket worn by JUV 1.

At 01:06:27 a.m. the white spot is slightly larger. However, most prominently seen on the video is the person in the white tank top jersey and dark sleeves, later identified as Abraham Duran-Campos. He is seen running west onto the sidewalk just north of Officer Barnes. He was in front of Officer Barnes, but at an angle to his left, and not in the line of fire toward the officer's target in the distance. Officer Barnes did not turn or react to the left. Instead, while the video still displays 01:06:27, Officer Barnes began firing at JUV 1.



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During timestamps 1:06:28-29, JUV 1 comes into view out of the darkness as he runs west across Biscay Ct. Officer Barnes fired 13 gunshots until 01:06:30 and stopped firing when JUV 1 reached the sidewalk.



Despite these gunshots, JUV 1 continued running without hesitation or outcry. He showed no sign of being struck by a bullet. He quickly caught up to the person in the white jersey and two others who were running west on the sidewalk. As the group ran together, Officer Barnes yelled at them, “Hey! Denver PD!” Someone in the group said, “No. Fuck that!” and they continued running west. Again, Officer Barnes yelled, “Denver PD” and Officer Full yelled, “Stop!” Officer Barnes yelled, “Drop the gun! Drop the fucking gun, kid!” All commands were ignored.

Both officers followed in the street behind the group. It appeared that other people were farther west on the sidewalk ahead of the group of four running west. Officer Barnes radioed again for Code 10 cover and Officer Full announced, “Shots fired.”

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As he ran, JUV 1 passed over the sidewalk/driveway in front of the house at 18907 E. 51st Place. Then, when he got to the intersection at Biscay Street, he stopped running. Later, crime scene investigators found blood drops on the sidewalk/driveway he ran across, and they obtained samples submitted for testing by the Denver Crime Lab. DNA testing shows that JUV 1's blood dripped onto the concrete driveway at markers 51 and 52. (See photos below). This evidence shows that JUV 1 was injured by one of the 13 shots fired by Officer Barnes.



When JUV 1 and the group stopped running at Biscay Street, six people can be seen on Officer Barnes' video. Five of them, including JUV 1 and JUV 2, were standing on the sidewalk on the east side of Biscay Street. The sixth person, wearing the white Nuggets jersey, was on the west side of Biscay Street.

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Officer Barnes yelled, “*Hey! Drop the gun, kid!*” He then fired three rapid shots at 01:06:58 a.m. Everyone in the group then ran north on Biscay Street. Officer Full asked, “*Which one is it, Barnes?*” Officer Barnes replied, “*Camo.*”

The officers went north on Biscay Street to follow the group. After a few minutes, they located and detained six individuals about one block to the north. Two adult females and two adult males were together on the west side of Biscay Street at 52nd Avenue. JUV 1 and JUV 2 were across the street on the east side of Biscay Street in separate areas.

Four Male Individuals Detained

One adult male detained on the 52nd Avenue sidewalk was identified as Giovanni Perez (DOB 05/15/2006). He was wearing a black sweatshirt and a black and gray knit hat with an Oakland Raiders logo. He had a gunshot wound to his left arm and was bleeding. Officer Full applied a tourniquet to his arm, and Mr. Perez was taken to University Hospital where he received medical treatment and surgery. This investigation shows that Mr. Perez’s injury was not caused by Officer Barnes.²

² The evidence suggests that Perez suffered his arm wound when on Biscay Ct., and that he was shot by someone other than Officer Barnes. (a) At the hospital, Perez told Detective Christopher Williams that he was shot on Biscay Ct. shortly after arriving at the party. He did not

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Abraham Duran-Campos (12/29/2005), the man wearing a white tank top Denver Nuggets jersey, long dark sleeves on his arms, and white shoes, was also detained on the 52nd Avenue sidewalk. He was not injured.



JUV 1, wearing a camouflage pattern jacket and a white shirt underneath, was located across the street on the east side of Biscay Street. He was lying on the ground next to a pickup truck in the driveway at 5198 Biscay Street. He was bleeding from a bullet entrance wound to the front of his right thigh. Officer Full provided assistance to him and applied a tourniquet to his leg. He was later taken to University Hospital where he received medical treatment.



know who shot him, but he thought several Hispanics were shooting, and they had masks on. He said they were shooting toward everyone, and he did not think he was the target. He started running on Biscay Ct. and got shot in the left arm.

(b) The investigation shows that when Officer Barnes fired the 13 shots to the east at JUV 1, Perez was not in the line of fire of those shots. During those moments, Perez was already on the sidewalk along E. 51st Place, to the west of the person in the Nuggets jersey.

(c) Perez continued west, crossing over on the driveway at 18907 E 51st Place where blood drops were found by investigators at marker 74 (seen in the photo on p.8.) DNA testing of this blood excluded both JUV 1 and JUV 2 as the source of the blood collected at marker 74. Since Perez was the only other person bleeding at the scene, the evidence supports the conclusion that this is Perez's blood at marker 74. Since he crossed the driveway before Officer Barnes fired his three-shot volley, the evidence shows that Perez already had the gunshot wound to his arm before Officer Barnes fired the final three shots.

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JUV 2 was also on the east side of Biscay Street, but north of JUV 1. As Officer Full was contacting JUV 1 in the driveway, JUV 2 walked south on the sidewalk and surrendered to officers by lying down. He was wearing a dark puffy parka.



JUV 2 had a bullet wound to his upper left buttock. Officers provided assistance to him at the scene. Later, he was taken to Children’s Hospital where he received medical treatment, including surgery for the bullet wound. A bullet was recovered during surgery. This bullet was later examined by the Firearms Unit of the Denver Crime Lab and was identified as having been fired by Officer Barnes’ weapon.

Two Semi-automatic Handguns Recovered at the Scene

Three houses north of where JUV 2 lay down on the sidewalk, officers found two handguns that had been discarded onto a lawn covered with leaves on the east side of Biscay Street at 5238 Biscay Street. One gun was all black and the other was purple and black. They were both semi-automatic handguns.

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The black gun had been fired until it was empty. As shown in the photo, the slide was locked back as it is designed to do when the last bullet in its magazine has been fired. The magazine inserted into the grip had a capacity to hold 12 bullets. The purple gun was loaded so its slide was not retracted and locked back. It had a live bullet in the firing chamber and 8 bullets remaining in the magazine.

Swabs of both guns were submitted for DNA testing by the Denver Crime Lab. The DNA evidence shows that blood from JUV 1 was on the black gun, and blood from JUV 2 was on both guns.

Spent Cartridge Cases Recovered at the Scene

Investigators from the Crime Scene Unit of the Denver Crime Lab processed and documented the scene. They collected a total of 39 spent cartridge cases. These were submitted to the Firearms Unit for examination.

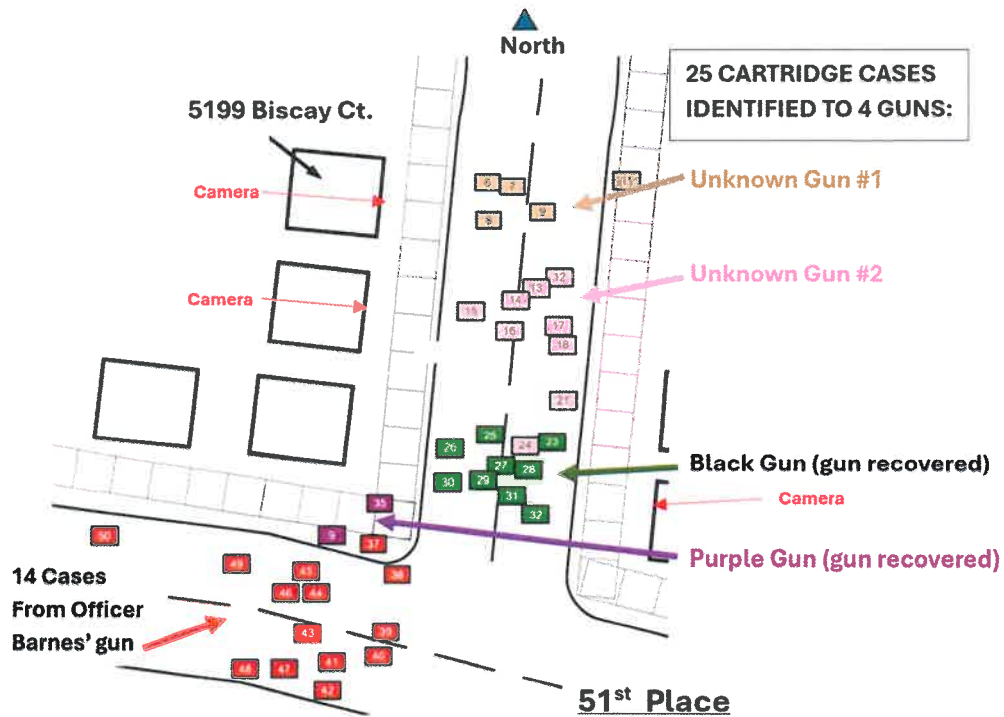
Fourteen of the spent cases were microscopically identified as having been fired in Officer Barnes’ gun.

The other 25 spent cases were microscopically identified as having been fired in 4 different guns: The purple handgun and the black handgun recovered at the scene; and 2 other guns that have not been located and are listed as “unknown firearm” and “second unknown firearm” in the Firearms Unit Report.

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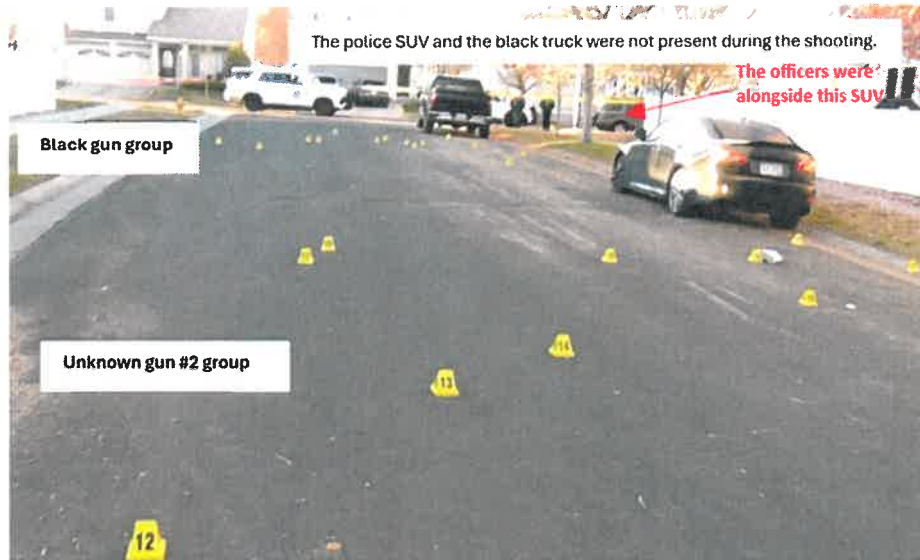
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The cases fired in the four guns were located in four relatively separate groups, corresponding to each gun, along Biscay Ct. See the diagram below. (The location of the houses with the surveillance cameras that recorded the shooting are also noted on the diagram).



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Officer Interviews

Officer Densel Barnes

On November 4, 2025, Officer Barnes was interviewed at DPD Headquarters. He was interviewed by DPD Lieutenant Rich Laber and Denver Sr. Chief Deputy District Attorney, Zach McCabe. He said when the shots were being fired on Biscay Ct., he focused on one male he saw shooting:

I see the kid in the camo fire.... I saw the muzzle flash from his hand being up. ...and then another flash.... And then, like, he's running back in my direction and still firing back.... People are running all over the place. But I honed on him because I know he was a shooter. He was an involved person. I saw him running up the street with the gun in his hand.

People are fleeing everywhere. Cars are fleeing everywhere. ... So, at that point, I saw him and I was worried about my life, my partner's life, the public's life.

Officer Barnes said he fired because he was afraid that he or his partner was going to be shot by the male in the camouflage jacket when he ran toward them:

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As he came up running ... it was more of, "Is he going to fire on me and my partner being right here? Because he's already a fugitive running, and fired rounds at a car or at the fugitive team down there, and I'm like, "Is he gonna just shoot us?"
... So, I was in fear for our lives, and my partner's life. And so, that's when I started firing, you know?

He said when the group of people running west on the sidewalk stopped at Biscay Street, he saw the male in the camouflage jacket still holding the gun. Officer Barnes believed he was still a threat to himself and to Officer Full, and that he was a threat to others in the neighborhood if he escaped. So, Officer Barnes fired additional shots at him.

With him already firing at other agents and ... trying to get away from us -- like, point his gun at us or trying to flee -- he'll do whatever it takes to get away.

And with there being so many other houses and people, like, waking up from hearing the gunshots previously, like, knocking on doors, -- and the general person that hears somebody banging on the door screaming for help, they're gonna open the door. And if he was to do that, and somebody let him in the house -- now you have another hostage, and we have no idea where he's at. And he could hurt them or hurt whoever else he's trying to get around.

Officer Barnes said he believed the person in the camouflage jacket was a deadly threat to anybody who got in his way:

I perceived he was willing to shoot -- pretty much shoot it out with anybody -- whoever gets in his way of him trying to escape.

I was thoroughly concerned that he was just gonna come try to shoot his way out of the entire situation.

Officer Ian Full

Officer Full was also interviewed on November 4, 2025, by investigators. He explained that from his position, he did not see muzzle flashes on Biscay Ct. and did not see anyone with a gun. However, he heard multiple gunshots being fired from multiple weapons on Biscay Ct. The

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shots were coming towards them, and he recalled hearing a few shots whistling past them. When asked if he was in fear for his life he said he was.

Legal Framework

Colorado Revised Statute §18-1-704 regarding self-defense and defense of another person, states:

(1) ... a person is justified in using physical force upon another person in order to defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force by that other person, and he may use a degree of force which he reasonably believes to be necessary for that purpose.

(2) Deadly physical force may be used only if a person reasonably believes a lesser degree of force is inadequate and:

(a) The actor has reasonable ground to believe, and does believe, that he or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving great bodily injury;

Colorado Revised Statute §18-1-707 states:

(1) Peace officers, in carrying out their duties, shall apply nonviolent means, when possible, before resorting to the use of physical force. A peace officer may use physical force only if nonviolent means would be ineffective in effecting an arrest, preventing an escape, or preventing an imminent threat of injury to the peace officer or another person.

...

(2) When physical force is used, a peace officer shall:

(a) Not use deadly physical force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or nonviolent offense;

(b) Use only a degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others;

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- (c) Ensure that assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured or affected persons as soon as practicable; and
- (d) Ensure that any identified relatives or next of kin of persons who have sustained serious bodily injury or death are notified as soon as practicable.

...

(4) A peace officer shall identify himself or herself as a peace officer and give a clear verbal warning of his or her intent to use firearms or other deadly physical force, with sufficient time for the warning to be observed, unless to do so would unduly place peace officers at risk of injury or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons.

Legal Analysis

The videos from the house cameras show deliberate shooting by four males on a residential street, with each shooter displaying an indifference to anyone who might be hurt or killed by their gunshots. These were violent felony crimes, ranging in severity from attempted murder and felony menacing to reckless endangerment. At least two juveniles illegally possessed firearms. Each shooter was a deadly threat.

Three of these threats came south toward Officer Barnes and Officer Full. Just hearing the rapid gunfire approaching and whistling of bullets was frightening. Officer Full feared for his life. Officer Barnes also feared for his life and saw JUV 1 shooting. Based on what he observed and on his belief that JUV 1 was shooting at law enforcement agents, he believed JUV 1 would “shoot it out with anybody.”

When JUV 1 paused at the NE corner, the officers were no longer concealed or protected by the vehicle beside them. So, when JUV 1 ran toward them, the deadly threat he posed was immediate. Officer Barnes had to react immediately. He could not safely delay to identify himself and issue a warning that he was going to fire his weapon and then wait to see if that deterred JUV 1. I find that a reasonable police officer, hypothetically in the shoes of Officer Barnes in these circumstances, and facing this threat, would believe that he was in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving great bodily injury from JUV 1, and would believe it was necessary to

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use physical force in defense, including deadly physical force, and would believe that less than deadly physical force would be inadequate to stop the threat JUV 1 presented.

I conclude that a jury hearing these facts would agree and would find that Officer Barnes was legally justified under C.R.S. §18-1-704 (1) and C.R.S. §18-1-707 (1) when he fired the 13 shots at JUV 1.³

Therefore, no criminal charges against Officer Barnes related to any of those shots, including the shot that caused the leg injury to JUV 1, are appropriate.

After JUV 1 was struck by one of the bullets, he was undeterred, refusing to drop his gun and refusing to yield to police. By the time he stopped at the next intersection to the west, he had rejoined with two other shooters who had run with him on Biscay Ct. Their threat as shooters had not subsided. JUV 2, who incidentally had 9 bullets remaining in his purple semi-automatic handgun, stood with JUV 1 on the sidewalk.

When Officer Barnes saw that JUV 1 was still holding his gun, he believed that JUV 1 was again an imminent deadly threat to him. He yelled, “*Drop the gun, kid*” and fired a volley of 3 rapid shots at JUV 1. Two bullets missed without striking anyone, but one bullet struck JUV 2.

I find that Officer Barnes was acting defensively and with legal justification when he fired the final volley of three shots. Based on the totality of the circumstances, it was reasonable for him to fear that JUV 1 was imminently about to fire at him. Since JUV 1 could fire in an instant and the distance between them was short, Officer Barnes had reasonable grounds to believe that he was in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving great bodily injury, and it was reasonable for him to believe he needed to shoot JUV 1 in order to stop the deadly threat he presented, and to believe that anything less than shooting him would be inadequate. Therefore, I find that Officer Barnes was justified under C.R.S. §18-1-704 in firing the three-round volley at JUV 1.

The fact that one of the bullets struck and injured JUV 2 does not change this analysis. The firing of that bullet was justified in self-defense by §18-1-704 under the doctrine of transferred

³ Because death was not caused, the jury findings would be pursuant to jury instructions relating to the use of “physical force” under the statutes. If death had been caused, the jury findings would be pursuant to jury instructions relating to the use of “deadly physical force” under the provisions of §18-1-704 (2) and §18-1-707 (4.5).

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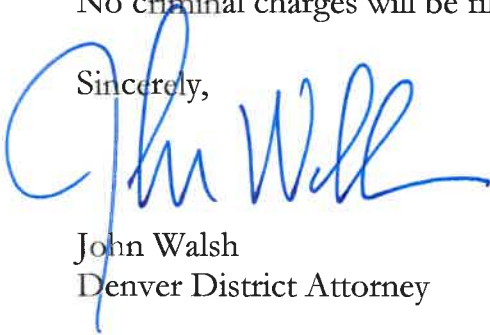
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intent self-defense. *See People v. Koper*, 488 P2d. 409 (Colo.App. 2018). Therefore, no charges are appropriate regarding the injury to JUV 2.

Conclusion

No criminal charges will be filed against Officer Barnes.

Sincerely,



John Walsh
Denver District Attorney

cc:

- Director of Public Safety Al Gardner
- Chief Ron Thomas
- Commander Matt Clark
- Lieutenant Rich Laber
- Detective Mary McIver
- Detective Mark Crider
- Officer Densel Barnes
- Officer Ian Full
- Denver City Attorney Miko Brown
- Director of the Office of Independent Monitor Lisabeth Pérez Castle
- Denver City Council