



**UTAH COUNTY
ATTORNEY**
David O. Leavitt

For Immediate Release

Date: October 22, 2021

Re: Utah County Attorney David Leavitt Declines to File Criminal Charges against Provo Police Officers Fired on by Suspect

Subject: Use of Deadly Force Screening

OICI Case No: 21C101

David Leavitt, Utah County Attorney released a declination to file criminal charges based on the factual summary of the following incident:

On February 23, 2021, Provo Police Department received calls made to 911 regarding a male acting erratically in an apartment complex. They received other reports of the male possibly having a gun and/or hearing gunshots.

When officers arrived on the scene, they found a shattered glass door to an apartment building, that appeared to have been shot out. The officers were able to contact Justin Keith Taylor, whom witnesses had identified as the person acting erratically and possibly having fired a weapon. Mr. Taylor admitted to firing a gun and clearly appeared to be mentally unstable.

While attempting to take Mr. Taylor into custody, Mr. Taylor was able to slip away from the officers, at which point he ran into his bedroom, picked up an assault rifle and began firing at the officers.

Mr. Taylor hit an officer several times causing serious bodily injury. The other officers began to return fire at Mr. Taylor, striking him several times. The officers were able to successfully rescue the injured officer, at which point he was transported to a local hospital.

After a short time, the officers were able to safely take Mr. Taylor into custody and he was transported to a separate hospital and treated for his injuries.

Upon being released from the hospital, Mr. Taylor was booked into the Utah County Jail on the charges of Attempted Aggravated Murder and Felony Discharge of a Firearm.

Utah County Attorney David Leavitt concluded that based on the foregoing facts and all additional information contained in the various police reports compiled through the investigation, the Utah County Attorney's Office declines to file any criminal charges against the officers responding to this call.

In describing the OICI (Officer-Involved Critical Incident) Investigation, The OICI Incident Commander Lt. Erik Knutzen and Utah County Sheriff OICI Investigations team provided the reports, statements, and evidence to our office. Follow-up was completed by the Utah County Attorneys Office Investigations Bureau regarding this incident.

Mr. Leavitt stated, "We want to be thorough in these investigations with a multi-tiered approach and cross-checks. I believe it gives the public more confidence in the trust they place with law enforcement and our office to keep our communities safe. Incidents can escalate and we want officers to be able to come home to their families. We look to learn from these situations so that we improve training, skills, and safety for all concerned."

Persons accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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