



Office of the District Attorney Fifth Judicial District

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Officer Involved Shooting That Resulted in Death Leads Grand Jury to Issue Mandatory Report in Absence of Any Indictment

Georgetown, CO – District Attorney Bruce Brown on June 30, 2020, publicly announced that an officer involved shooting resulting in the death of an Idaho Springs man was being referred to the 2020-21 Fifth Judicial District Grand Jury. The grand jury's report, in lieu of indictment, is being released today, articulating the grand jury's findings and recommendations. The entirety of the report and court order can be viewed at: <https://www.da5.us/answers-and-info/officer-involved-shootings/> .

In the wake of recent social unrest the Colorado Assembly (SB20-217) altered grand jury duties, upon discretionary referral by the District Attorney of an officer involved shooting, effective June 19, 2020, that mandated where no indictment is returned that the grand jury must issue a concluding report. The shooting here occurred May 9, 2020 and the grand jury report was filed with the District Court on August 6, 2020.

Upon public release of this report, District Attorney Bruce Brown commented, "Grand jurors carefully reviewed evidenced in determining that no officer should be charged but recommended that change was needed to prevent this type of incident. The grand jury's recommendation that local government needs to expand Clear Creek County, a small rural community with scant mental health resources, enabling law enforcement officers an ability to refer people with mental health issues to treatment. Brown concluded that, "An absence of resources contributed to this tragedy, and the question is whether officials can work together, step up and fill a glaring need to provide treatment to people who are suffering."

According to the Washington Post "Fatal Forces" database, Americans with mental illnesses make up nearly 25% of those killed by police and a cumulative list shows that since the 1970s 115 police officers have been killed by people with untreated mental illnesses.

The matter was independently investigated by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The District Attorney's office expresses their appreciation for their assistance.

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