



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Colorado's 4th Judicial District - Serving El Paso & Teller Counties

April 4, 2026 Officer Involved Shooting

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Colorado's 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the officer-involved shooting that occurred on April 4, 2026, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 16-2.5-301 peace officer-involved shooting investigations protocol, all officer-involved shootings that result in injury or death shall be reviewed by a multi-agency team: A Deadly Force Investigation Team.

April 4, 2026, just before 11 p.m., multiple Colorado Springs Police Department Officers and one El Paso County Sheriff's Office Deputy, as part of a Metro Division Task Force, were conducting proactive police operations in identified areas of high crime, when they located Benjamin Greenfield, who was well-known to officers due to a number of previous convictions related to drugs and weapons charges, as well as for fleeing from law enforcement.

Mr. Greenfield's black, spray-painted Nissan pickup truck pulled into the parking lot of a 24-hour fast food restaurant, located in the 1200 block of North Academy Boulevard, parallel to the restaurant's drive-through lane.

At 10:58 p.m., six CSPD Officers, including Officers Michael Dauchy, Mitchell Mueller, and Daniel White, arrived at the parking lot. Officer Joao Paulo Davilva saw a female get into the passenger side of Mr. Greenfield's truck and, believing that a drug deal was taking place, aired that information to the other officers on scene.

Because officers knew Mr. Greenfield had recently fled from police contact, they coordinated an approach designed to prevent him from escaping by using their vehicles to block him in. Officer



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Mueller was assigned to operate the “block truck,” an unmarked Chevrolet 2500 equipped with a reinforced bumper, a bullet-resistant windshield, and concealed emergency lights. Officer Dan White rode passenger with Mueller. Officer Michael Dauchy rode in an unmarked Ford Interceptor driven by Officer Jeanay Angel.

Officers coordinated their actions over the radio, activated their emergency lights to identify themselves as law enforcement, and began their approach.

Officer Mueller maneuvered the block truck directly behind Mr. Greenfield’s Nissan, while additional units established containment around the vehicle with emergency lights activated. Officers gave lawful orders for the occupants of the truck to roll down the tinted windows of the truck. Almost immediately, Greenfield reversed his vehicle, striking the “block truck,” then accelerated forward, striking the fence. Officer Mueller was instructed to shift from a non-contact block to a full “contact block,” making physical contact with the suspect’s vehicle to prevent escape.

Officers issued repeated clear verbal commands, ordering Greenfield to exit the vehicle and advising him he was under arrest, to include: “Police, you’re under arrest;” “Get out of the vehicle;” and “Police, we will shoot you.”

Mr. Greenfield did not respond to commands and continued to attempt to drive away, even as his vehicle became high-centered, rendering it undriveable. He had driven through approximately twelve feet of fencing and became stuck on a curb and several rocks. He continued to accelerate, but the tires only spun without gaining traction.

As Greenfield continued to press the gas pedal and ignore verbal commands, officers attempted to deploy less-lethal options. One officer requested a 40-millimeter launcher, a less-lethal kinetic impact projectile weapon, over the radio, however none were available on scene. Officer Mueller then retrieved a less-lethal pepper-ball gun from the rear seat of the block truck, and Officer Dauchy issued verbal warnings that a chemical agent would be deployed into Mr. Greenfield’s vehicle if he did not exit and comply with commands.

Officer Dauchy picked up rocks from the parking lot and threw them through Mr. Greenfield’s heavily tinted driver’s side windows to create an opening for the pepper-ball gun and to increase visibility.

However, before the pepper-ball gun could be deployed, several officers on scene saw Mr. Greenfield “reaching around” the inside of his vehicle and “going underneath the seat.” They transmitted their observations over the radio. In response, officers began moving into covered positions behind their vehicles—Dauchy behind the block truck’s driver door, Mueller near the front of the block truck, and White moved into a safer spot near the vehicles.

As police were preparing the pepper-ball gun and issuing warnings, Greenfield fired one shot through his window, at police officers. This round struck and ricocheted off the ballistic windshield of the block truck.

In response, Officer White fired seventeen rounds from his 9mm handgun; Officer Dauchy fired sixteen rounds from his 9mm handgun; Officer Mueller fired six rounds from his 9 mm handgun.

Mr. Greenfield was hit approximately ten times. Officers attempted to provide life-saving measures to Mr. Greenfield and he was transported to an area hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Law enforcement recovered a .40 caliber Smith & Wesson SD40 2.0 semi-automatic handgun found in Mr. Greenfield's Nissan truck. The firearm was located on the passenger side floorboard of the vehicle.

The El Paso County Coroner's Office later ruled Benjamin Greenfield died as the result of multiple gunshot wounds. A toxicology report revealed Mr. Greenfield had 161 ng/mL Amphetamine and 784 ng/mL Methamphetamine in his system at the time of his death.

All CSPD officers involved had their body worn cameras activated, and their recordings of this incident were successfully downloaded in their entirety. All BWC recordings are incorporated into this report by reference as video evidence of the facts.

Post-Shoot Interviews

Aside from the facts outlined above, there were multiple relevant statements made by law enforcement officers during their post-shoot interviews.

Officer Mitchell Mueller has been a sworn officer employed by the Colorado Springs Police Department for 4 years.

In a post-shoot interview conducted by an investigator with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Officer Mueller said he was familiar with Mr. Greenfield, stating, "I've seen his truck many times. I know exactly what his truck looks like. As soon as I pass the wooden fence, I see his truck. I swing wide in the block truck. And after I get about three to four feet from him, I throw on the, um, overhead red and blue lights. Um, and I stop. I put the truck in park. Um, no contact is made. This is just kind of our, like, 'Hey, the police are here, um, and you're being detained.'"

Mueller then described having to change the position of his vehicle, saying "and then he starts backing up right towards me. So, at that point, um, I take the truck out of park. I think Officer White, who was in the passenger seat with me, had gotten out. Um, and so now at that point, my, my job is to block the truck. Um, and not, like, ram or anything, just put my truck into his bumper. So, I moved the truck up. Uh, we touch bumpers. And then he was on the accelerator just trying to, I think, he was still in reverse, trying to just get out towards me."

During his interview, Officer Mueller gave further details regarding the shooting itself, from his vantage after he was able to find cover. Mueller reported, "And I'm giving commands. I kind of get stuck almost, and I'm saying, 'This is the police. We will shoot you.' Um, because I know his level of - he, he's supposed to be armed all the time. Um, so this is a - a dangerous contact. Especially where I was. Um, at that point, I see, I don't know who it was, but a rock kind of comes flying and breaks out a pretty good hole of his driver's side front window. And at that point, I can see right into the window; I see it's Benji 100 percent. Um, so, I - I - I think I yelled. I might have gone on the radio. I just don't remember, but I know for sure at one point, I said, 'PID, it's Benji.' Like 'P-I-D', which means positive identification."

Speaking to his decision to fire, Officer Mueller said, “I felt like I had no other option. Um, I had a good, I had good cover on one side, and I knew other cops didn't. And if they're being shot at, they're at a substantial risk of death.”

Officer Michael Dauchy has been a sworn officer employed by the Colorado Springs Police Department for 4 years.

Officer Dauchy described the scene, as it appeared upon his arrival, to an investigator with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, stating, “We started doing all of our commands to have him exit the vehicle, used our - you know, use of force warning - things of that nature, identifying as police, letting him know he was under arrest. Uh, his windows were very heavily tinted, so we couldn't see inside the truck.”

In describing his decision to fire, Officer Dauchy said, “I was looking at the truck, heard a loud pop from inside the truck, saw a muzzle flash in the truck, and took glass to the face - at which point I kind of paused and realized that he had just shot at us.” Dauchy went on to say, “I started to fire my duty weapon, um, because once he was shooting at us, I started fearing for my life, other officers' lives, and the public due to the backdrop being McDonald's, and the McDonald's was open at that hour of the morning.”

During his post-shoot interview, Officer Dauchy stated, “Once, um, we had felt the threat was - or once I felt the threat was no more, and it stopped, we continued calling out to him to show us his hands, come out of the truck. We weren't getting any response from him. The wheels, I remember, were still spinning on the truck. So, I had moved to the front of his truck just to look through his windshield as best I could without trying to give up too much cover, because we didn't know if he was baiting us or what was going on at that point. Um, I was able to look through the truck, see him laying back. Um, not responsive to us, not listening to our commands.”

Officer Dan White has been a sworn officer employed by the Colorado Springs Police Department for 4.5 years.

In a post-shoot interview conducted by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Officer White confirmed that he and other officers did issue multiple verbal commands to Mr. Greenfield. During that interview, Officer White stated, “Yeah, the initial command, when I first got out of the truck was, ‘Police.’ Um, and I think I told him - like I said, I went to say, ‘You're detained,’ and I changed it to, uh, ‘You're - you're in custody’ Um, and then I said, ‘Police,’ again, when I came around to the back side and hit his truck with my flashlight multiple times.”

In speaking to his decision to fire, Officer White told an EPSO Investigator, his thought process was, “‘I can't have him shoot more. If he shoots more, he's gonna kill me, he's gonna kill somebody else, he's gonna kill one of my partners.’ Um, and I had - I had to stop the threat.”

Analysis

CRS 18-1-704, Use of physical force in defense of a person, defines each person's right to defend themselves against the use, or the imminent use, of unlawful physical force by another person.

This statute states, in relevant part:

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 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. Deadly physical force may be used only if a person reasonably believes a lesser degree of force is inadequate and the actor has a 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.

The facts relevant to analysis under this standard of review include that Officers Daniel White, Mitchell Mueller, and Michael Dauchy were sworn peace officers employed by and carrying out their official duties on behalf of the Colorado Springs Police Department, a law enforcement agency. The officers involved in this incident announced the presence of law enforcement multiple times and activated their emergency lights before approaching Mr. Greenfield. Officers White, Mueller, and Dauchy were wearing official police uniforms. Officers on scene also informed Mr. Greenfield he was in custody. Mr. Greenfield refused to comply with any commands and repeatedly attempted to escape.

Law enforcement observed Mr. Greenfield, who they were familiar with as a suspected drug dealer involved in multiple police investigations, in the process of a narcotics transaction in his vehicle. Officers were aware that Mr. Greenfield routinely carried a firearm and that he had a documented history of fleeing from law enforcement.

Officers on scene issued repeated commands, but Mr. Greenfield would not comply. Instead, while still in his vehicle, Mr. Greenfield fired a shot at officers.

Officers White, Mueller, and Dauchy each expressed concern for their own safety, the threat Mr. Greenfield posed to the lives of their fellow officers, and the threat he posed to the lives of members of the public – the event described in this report occurred in the parking lot of a popular fast-food restaurant that is open 24/7.

All three officers considered the backdrop of their shots before firing, and each knew they would be able to reduce the possibility of innocent casualties. Each of the three firing officers stopped firing, independently, once the suspect was down and no longer a threat.

CRS 18-1-707, Use of force by peace officers, dictates a peace officer's duty to use only a degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others.

This statute states, in relevant part,

(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 serious bodily injury or death to the peace officer or another person. A peace officer is justified in using deadly physical force to make an arrest only when all other means of apprehension are unreasonable given the circumstances and:

(a) The arrest is for a felony involving conduct including the use or threatened use of deadly physical force; [and] The suspect poses an immediate threat to the peace officer or another person; [and]

(b) The force employed does not create a substantial risk of injury to other persons.

The facts relevant to analysis under this standard of review include that responding officers did employ lesser degrees of physical force upon arrival at the scene.

Officers initially moved in to apprehend Mr. Greenfield using multiple vehicles, including an armored “block truck,” to keep Mr. Greenfield from driving away.

Mr. Greenfield tried to escape by ramming his vehicle through a fence but became high-centered and stuck – still, he continued attempting to drive, kept revving the engine, and refused to comply with any law enforcement commands.

Officer Mueller retrieved a pepper-ball gun from the rear seat of the block truck, and Officer Dauchy issued warnings that a chemical agent would be deployed into Mr. Greenfield’s vehicle if he did not exit the vehicle and comply with commands.

Officer Dauchy grabbed rocks from the parking lot and threw them through the darkly tinted windows on the driver’s-side of Mr. Greenfield’s vehicle to provide law enforcement officers with a better opportunity to see what was happening inside.

Later, in his post-shooting interview, Officer Dauchy said officers on scene came up with a plan to use lesser-lethal force. “We were going to introduce, um, some of the pepper balls into the truck as an irritant to try to get him out. So, I was kind of relaying that warning to him, that a chemical irritant was going to be introduced if he wasn’t - if he didn’t comply with our commands to exit the truck.”

As officers prepared to use the pepper ball gun, Mr. Greenfield fired a shot at them.

Officer Mueller later said, “And I put the pepper ball down. I said, ‘Did he just effing shoot at us?’ Someone said, ‘yes,’ and I looked up. And I could see clear as day, um, a small bullet hole in the front driver’s window.”

Further, the force used by Officers White, Mueller, and Dauchy did not create a substantial risk of injury or death to other people. Their backdrop was clear of bystanders and officers.

Officer White was carrying a 9mm handgun and fired 17-rounds. Officers Mueller was carrying a 9mm handgun and fired 6-rounds. Officer Dauchy was carrying a 9mm handgun and fired 16-rounds. All officers stopped firing once the suspect was down and no longer a threat.

CRS 18-1-707 (4.5) dictates that, when using deadly force, a peace officer must believe a threat to his/her personal safety, or the safety of a third party would be otherwise unavoidable.

This subsection states:

(4.5) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, a peace officer is justified in using deadly force if the peace officer has an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate and the peace officer has objectively reasonable grounds to

believe, and does believe, that he or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving serious bodily injury.

Given the totality of the circumstances, Officer White, Officer Mueller, and Officer Dauchy each had an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force would be inadequate to address the threat posed by the suspect.

Mr. Greenfield, a local drug dealer known for carrying a firearm, had evaded police on multiple occasions and was seen, on the evening of the incident described in this report, conducting a drug deal inside his vehicle.

When police responded, Mr. Greenfield refused to comply with their commands to exit his vehicle, show his hands, or submit to an arrest. Officers were attempting to deploy a less-lethal force when Mr. Greenfield fired a shot at officers from inside his vehicle therefore the less-lethal force option was no longer appropriate. Officers on scene clarified a shot had been fired and then returned fire.

Officers White, Mueller, and Dauchy did have objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and did believe, that Mr. Greenfield posed an imminent threat of causing death or serious bodily injury to themselves and members of the public.

The female seen in Mr. Greenfield's vehicle prior to the shooting did exit the vehicle before shots were fired, was not injured, and was taken into custody on an unrelated warrant.

Conclusion

After completing a thorough review of the facts and evidence, Colorado's 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office has determined the use of deadly force by Colorado Springs Police Officer Daniel White, Colorado Springs Police Officer Mitchell Mueller, and Colorado Springs Police Officer Michael Dauchy, on April 4, 2026, was justified, based on all the facts and circumstances of this case under the laws of the State of Colorado. No charges will be filed based on the statutes outlined previously, as well as the necessary application of ethical rules.

Note to the Media: All updates will only come from Communications when available.
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