



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Michael J. Allen, District Attorney

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

June 23, 2025

Officer Involved Shooting

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Kate Singh
Chief Communications Officer

719-520-6084
katesingh@da4colorado.gov

Colorado's 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the officer-involved shooting that occurred on June 23, 2025, 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.

On June 23, 2025, at approximately 1:04 a.m., officers with the Colorado Springs Police Department were dispatched to the Antero Apartment Complex, located in the southwest side of the city, in response to a call for service from a civilian, who reported a man was discharging a firearm from an apartment balcony. The reporting party told dispatch this man had previously fired a handgun at their family members more than once.

Colorado Springs Police Department Officer Ryan Clare arrived on scene at 1:11 a.m. and attempted to locate the suspect or the reporting party. CSPD Officer Haowei Pan arrived shortly after. Officers spoke with two civilians, one of whom reported she heard multiple gunshots but did not see anyone with a gun. Officers did not see anyone else in the area.

Before officers could contact the reporting party, the suspect, later identified as Jesus Ramirez, Jr., walked towards an open space between the apartment buildings and called out, "I'm the one you're looking for." Because the officers were responding to a shots fired call with a suspect who previously fired a weapon at civilians, Officer Clare had already drawn his duty weapon. He was holding a flashlight in his other hand. Both officers turned to face Mr. Ramirez and observed he was about 50 feet away and armed with a firearm in his right hand.



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Officers Clare and Pan gave multiple verbal commands ordering Mr. Ramirez to drop the weapon. Mr. Ramirez raised his weapon at the officers, pulled the slide back on the handgun, and fired one round in their direction.

Officers Clare and Pan stated they were in immediate fear for their lives, as well as for the lives of civilians in the surrounding apartment buildings and vehicles. Both officers fired their duty weapons approximately six times. Mr. Ramirez was struck by several rounds and fell to the ground.

As the officers attempted to confirm the threat had been neutralized, Mr. Ramirez raised his pistol and fired another shot in their direction.

Both Officers Clare and Pan returned fire, discharging their weapons approximately seven and eleven times, respectively. Mr. Ramirez was again struck multiple times. Once additional officers arrived and safety was ensured, medical aid was rendered. Despite life-saving efforts, Mr. Ramirez died on scene.

Officers recovered Mr. Ramirez's firearm, a Kimber 1911 .38 pistol, loaded with one round in the chamber and an additional round in the magazine. A loaded magazine and two extra rounds were found in Mr. Ramirez's pocket, and an empty magazine was recovered from beneath Mr. Ramirez.



Image: Mr. Ramirez's Kimber 1911 .38 pistol was recovered from the scene.

The El Paso County Coroner's Office later ruled Jesus Ramirez, Jr. died as the result of multiple gunshot wounds. A toxicology report revealed Mr. Ramirez had illegal narcotics and ethanol alcohol 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 Ryan Clare has been a sworn officer employed by the Colorado Springs Police Department since May of 2024. Officer Haowei Pan has been a sworn officer employed by the Colorado Springs Police Department since August of 2024.

In a post-shooting interview conducted by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Officer Clare stated, "He pulled, uh, the trigger, uh, so at least one shot was fired towards me. At this time, before I fired, he was shooting at 1480 [Michelle Court], which was my immediate backdrop, which is multiple occupied apartments."

Officer Clare further stated, "He fired a round at us. I felt that my life was in immediate danger. I felt that other officers' lives were in danger, so were people in the apartment complex, and I returned fire. Uh, I do not know how many rounds I shot that first time. I returned fire until he dropped, and it appeared he didn't pose a threat at that time."

Both Officers Clare and Pan gave multiple verbal commands for Mr. Ramirez to drop his weapon with Officer Pan stating, "Drop it or you're going to get shot again."

Officer Clare observed Mr. Ramirez lying on the ground approximately 15 feet away from him, stating, "He turned, still lying on the ground, pistol in his right hand, and started firing more rounds off, uh, over his shoulder indiscriminately. He was still firing into the apartment complex, so again, at that same point, I felt like my life was in danger. I felt like, uh, people in the apartment's life was in danger, and I fired, uh, I fired at him again until he stopped firing."

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 Ryan Clare and Haowei Pan are sworn peace officers employed by and carrying out their official duties on behalf of the Colorado Springs Police Department, a law enforcement agency. All officers involved in this incident were in official police uniforms and driving fully marked police vehicles.

Officers Clare and Pan received initial information that an armed male was firing his gun from his balcony and that the same male had fired his gun at others within the previous few days.

These initial facts satisfy the elements of Illegal Discharge of a Firearm and Menacing, both felony offenses.

Mr. Ramirez called out and initiated contact with law enforcement armed with a pistol in his right hand. Officers Clare and Pan gave multiple verbal commands to drop the weapon as Mr. Ramirez raised the pistol and fired a round in their direction.

Officer Clare and Officer Pan each had an objectively reasonable belief that the suspect posed an imminent threat to cause death or serious bodily injury to themselves, each other, or the civilians in the occupied apartment building.

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 a lesser degree of physical force would have been inadequate. Mr. Ramirez was 50 feet away from the officers, rendering less lethal options, such as a taser or OC spray, ineffective.

Further, the force used by Officers Clare and Pan did not create a substantial risk of injury or death to other people. Their backdrop was clear of bystanders and occupied apartments.

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 Clare and Officer Pan each had an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force would be inadequate to address the threat posed by the suspect. Officers knew Mr. Ramirez had previously aimed and discharged a firearm at others,

as recently as two days prior to this incident. Mr. Ramirez had a loaded pistol in hand when he called the officers' attention to himself, then raised the gun and fired in their direction.

Officer Clare and Officer Pan did have objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and did believe, that Mr. Ramirez posed an imminent threat of causing death or serious bodily injury to themselves or those in the apartment building behind them.

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 Ryan Clare and Colorado Springs Police Officer Haowei Pan on June 23, 2025, 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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