



Polk County Attorney

KIMBERLY GRAHAM
County Attorney

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
222 FIFTH AVENUE
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 286-3737

September 6, 2023

Chief Pizzano,

I have reviewed the fatal shooting of Bradley Robert Van Heeswyk, age 25, that occurred on August 12, 2023, at 404 Pleasant Circle, Pleasant Hill, Iowa. This began as a 911 call to report a man discharging a firearm at the above-listed address. Both Pleasant Hill Police and Altoona Police responded to the location.

Mr. Van Heeswyk had slashed the tires of a vehicle in the driveway, lit the entryway to the home on fire, and killed the family's two dogs before police arrived. He had fired numerous rounds into and around the home, as reported on 911 calls and confirmed during the investigation. He had an AK-47 rifle, a 9 mm handgun, and several rounds of ammunition.

After police arrived, as Mr. Van Heeswyk raised an AK-47 and appeared to begin to scale a wooden fence behind which he stood, Officer Steven Burroughs loudly commanded Mr. Van Heeswyk to drop his weapon, then fired one shot, which hit Mr. Van Heeswyk.

In regards to the specifics of Officer Burroughs' conduct that day, I have reviewed all the body worn camera footage of Officer Burroughs and other officers on scene, and have reviewed all the evidence produced by the Department of Criminal Investigation. We appreciate the thorough work of the DCI.

Given all the circumstances, it was reasonable for Officer Burroughs to conclude that his life, the lives of other officers on scene, and the lives of everyone in the area were in imminent danger at the time the deadly force was used. Officer Burroughs' action was necessary to save the lives of officers and others in the neighborhood. It is my conclusion that the use of deadly force was legally justified pursuant to Iowa law. No charges will be filed by our office.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Graham
Polk County Attorney