

LONGMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety & Justice Center, 225 Kimbark Street, Longmont, Colorado 80501



Longmont Police, Fire, Communications & Emergency Management

Police Information 303-651-8555 ■ Fire Information 303-651-8437

9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center 303-651-8501

Office of Emergency Management 303-651-8438

To Whom It May Concern,

One of our primary roles and responsibilities is to preserve life. It is excruciatingly painful on many levels for any and all of us to be involved in a police officer involved shooting especially one that results in loss of life. We are all very saddened at the loss of Jesus Ramos' life.

We are in complete agreement with the grand jury's finding that Master Police Officer Mike Kimbley not be indicted on criminal charge(s). We respect the process and greatly appreciate the grand jury's time and energy to listen to and analyze the evidence that resulted in a no true bill. We also take notice of those expectations the grand jury has of Longmont's police services.

The Longmont Police Services Division conducts extensive training regarding use of force including application of case law, constant policy review and modifications, research into state-of-the-art best practices, and extensive skill development in the use of firearms and other less lethal options. In addition, we have developed a culture in which de-escalation and less lethal options are utilized significantly and on an on-going basis. It is very, very rare for Longmont police to engage in the use of deadly force. Our police officers have responded many times to "suicide by cop" situations and have successfully resolved those circumstances without anyone getting hurt or injured.

Longmont Public Safety has taken unique and substantial steps to ensure that our police officers and staff respond effectively to those struggling with their mental health in ways that de-escalate personal crisis, compassionately embrace those who are struggling as well as their loved ones and assist in finding services for those who need them. We have trained our police officers and our staff how to respond to those who are in crisis as well as how to assist families and friends. Our mental health clinicians ride in the same car as our police officers and respond to many calls for service involving people struggling with their mental health. We have repeatedly and frequently been able to de-escalate crisis situations and help people find services. We also divert those who are struggling with their mental health and have committed crimes from the criminal justice system through case management and building relationships with them. That has proven to be an effective philosophy and practice in Longmont. We are one of the few police departments in the entire country that has trained mental health service providers on our staff that can respond to many situations involving people struggling with their mental health. We will continue to enhance those services for our community.

Emotional and psychological debriefing is a specific process designed to assist our first responders in responding, in a more healthy way, to the psychological symptoms associated with exposure to trauma and crisis incidents. As an important part of that process, our first responders are offered the opportunity to emotionally debrief the trauma and crisis incidents we respond to, especially officer involved shootings. We

also offer peer counseling to our first responders. It is vitally important and research has concluded that we should conduct emotional and psychological debriefings as soon as possible (24-72 hours) after these crisis incidents. The research is clear that the more time that transpires after the incident, the less effective these debriefings become. If we choose to conduct these debriefings weeks or months later, our first responders are much more likely to experience long term post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). Some circumstances of these incidents might be shared, but the purpose of these debriefing sessions is to assist our first responders and their families in coping with, in a more healthy way, the trauma they experienced.

And while our primary role is to preserve life, there are those very, very rare circumstances which our police officers have to protect the lives of innocent people as well as their own lives in the performance of their duties by discharging their firearms. This was one of those cases.

In this case, Jesus Ramos made it abundantly clear that he was going to kill police officers and innocent civilians with a gun he emphatically told us he had in his possession (listen to tape of dispatched call). During this interaction with police, Jesus Ramos felony menaced our police officers, and after disobeying clear commands to drop the weapon he stated he possessed, he ran towards occupied apartments and subsequently broke into an innocent civilian's apartment. While Jesus Ramos was threatening police officers and concurrently running towards occupied apartments, Master Police Officer Mike Kimbley, believing him and his fellow officers' lives were in danger and after hearing Jesus Ramos state he was going to kill civilians, discharged his firearm one time. And even though Jesus Ramos was struck by one bullet, he continued to run towards and break into an occupied apartment.

Of note is that seven out of the eight police officers who were present that night, including Master Police Officer Mike Kimbley, had received advanced training in responding to people struggling with their mental health. And while our police officers respond effectively to thousands of situations every year involving people struggling with their mental health, the circumstances with Jesus Ramos quickly developed into a threat of deadly force against our police officers and innocent civilians. These potentially lethal conditions, precipitated by Jesus Ramos, caused significant life safety concerns for our police officers and other innocent people.

We believe Master Police officer Mike Kimbley acted within the scope of his duties, within the framework of our policies and procedures, and according to his training on December 31, 2018 when he discharged his firearm.

Longmont Public Safety will work closely with the Boulder County District Attorney's office and our legal advisor to ensure that our training in use of force continues to be state-of-the-art and will be in a constant mode of assessing our policies, procedures and practices to make certain they are aligned with the finest service we can provide our community.

Respectfully,



H. Michael Butler
Public Safety Chief