



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release  
May 6, 2021

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## Press Release

The District Attorney's Office announced today that the investigation and legal analysis of Boulder Police Department Officer Richard Steidell's non-fatal shooting of Ahmad Alissa has been completed.

The Critical Incident Team for the 20th Judicial District, also known as the Boulder County Investigation Team ("BCIT"), investigated this case. This multi-agency team is designated to investigate use-of-force incidents in which any law enforcement officer used deadly, or potentially deadly, physical force against a person while acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. Following this incident, the Boulder Police Department ("BPD") quickly notified the BCIT. The BCIT responded and conducted a thorough investigation. Consistent with protocol, the BPD did not participate in the investigation into the use of force by Officer Steidell.

This announcement, and the decision of the District Attorney, is not to be construed as commentary on the criminal charges, which are merely allegations, pending against Alissa. He remains innocent of the charges against him unless and until a jury finds him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Under the law, the District Attorney is required to make, and publicly disclose, the findings and conclusions which are the bases for not charging Officer Steidell with criminal offenses. Those findings are discussed in the decision letter and briefly summarized here.

Just before 2:30 pm on March 22, 2021, a person pulled into the parking lot of the King Soopers supermarket on Table Mesa Drive. He exited his car and began shooting at individuals in the parking lot. The shooter ran toward the east entrance and entered the store. He continued shooting inside the store.

Boulder Police Dispatch received its first 911 call at 2:30 p.m. Within a minute of that call, BPD officers were dispatched to respond. During this time, radio traffic aired that there was an active shooter, a description of the shooter, and that the shooter may have been wearing an armored vest. Multiple callers described barricading themselves inside the store. Dispatch also indicated there may be multiple shooters.

As described in the report, at the time he fired his weapon, Officer Steidell believed that an individual had shot and killed at least two civilians and critically wounded or killed Officer Eric Talley. He also believed that other individuals may have been killed and there was a mass casualty event. To his knowledge at the time, at least one individual remained armed inside King Soopers.

Prior to discharging his weapon, Officer Steidell had, along with other members of a second entry group, been fired upon. The investigation determined that one of Officer Steidell's shots struck the armed individual in the right thigh. Officer Steidell believed that the use of force was required to prevent an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to himself or another peace officer. His beliefs were both objectively reasonable and, upon further review, correct. Thus, Officer Steidell was justified in using force.

No other civilian was shot or killed after Boulder Police Officers and other law enforcement entered the store. No person other than Officer Steidell fired a weapon at Alissa. Officer Steidell's shots were the last ones fired by anyone inside the King Soopers on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The shooting ended with the shots by Officer Steidell. After additional teams of officers entered the store, employees and customers were found alive and hiding throughout the store. Under applicable Colorado law, no criminal charges can or should be filed against Officer Steidell or the other law enforcement officers.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "I appreciate that the Boulder County Investigation Team conducted an independent and thorough review. The integrity and outcome of these investigations are important to everyone involved and to our community. This investigation has certainly highlighted the bravery of Officer Steidell and his fellow officers who took such courageous action by charging into an incredibly dangerous and deadly situation."

The District Attorney's detailed report can be found at <https://www.bouldercounty.org/district-attorney/officer-involved-shooting-decision-letters/>. For individuals interested in the process and findings, District Attorney Michael Dougherty will conduct a virtual Town Hall via Microsoft Teams on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. You can submit questions in advance via email to [boulderda@bouldercounty.org](mailto:boulderda@bouldercounty.org). The link to join is <https://tinyurl.com/6r7u7ttw>. Community members are, also, able to call into the Town Hall by calling 720-400-7859 and entering Conference ID Number 943811038#.