



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Sam Adams, Mayor

Michael Reese, Chief of Police

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NEWS RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM CHIEF MICHAEL REESE ON THE DEATH OF AARON CAMPBELL

Members Disciplined Investigation and Review Released

Today, I met with the officers and sergeants involved in the shooting death of Aaron Campbell on January 29, 2010, and notified them of my decision regarding policy violations and performance issues that occurred during this incident. Mayor Sam Adams and I made the final decisions following the recent due process meetings involving these Police Bureau members.

I have decided the use of force and less lethal force were out of the Bureau's policy. Therefore, the following discipline decisions are as follows: Officer Ron Frashour will be terminated; Officer Ryan Lewton will receive an 80-hour unpaid suspension; Sergeant Liani Reyna will receive an 80-hour unpaid suspension and Sergeant John Birkinbine will receive an 80-hour unpaid suspension.

I arrived at these decisions by carefully reviewing the Detectives investigation, the Grand Jury transcripts, Internal Affairs review and transcripts, the Training Division's analysis and the Commander's findings and recommendations. I also received recommendations from the Use of Force Review Board, which is comprised of peer member officers and sergeants, Assistant Chiefs, the involved members' Commander, and community members educated in Bureau policies, practices and performance review procedures. Over the last several weeks, I met with each member during due process meetings and thoroughly reviewed what was brought forward during this process.

My decision was based on the significant policy violations and performance issues that occurred during this incident. This was a difficult decision because ultimately, I believe each Bureau member involved was attempting to do their best to resolve a complex situation. However, as Chief, I must address the significant issues that were brought forth in the Bureau's internal reviews and hold the involved members accountable.

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Because the discipline process has been completed, the Bureau is now releasing documents associated with this shooting, including: the Internal Affairs investigation, the Training Division review, the Commander's findings and recommendations; the memo from the members of the Use of Force Review Board as well as the presentations made to the Board; the members' discipline letters; and miscellaneous documents and photos. All of these documents, as well as previously released documents and audio recordings, are available on the Bureau's website, portlandpolice.com.

The Police Bureau is also committed to learning from this shooting to continue to improve and de-escalate situations involving people in mental or emotional crisis. The Bureau is in the process of re-evaluating all of its policies concerning less lethal tools (e.g.: Taser, beanbag, etc.) to ensure a uniformity in each policy. The Bureau is also ensuring that those members who are selected and trained to carry an AR-15 rifle have undergone a comprehensive performance evaluation and that the training reinforces the Bureau's Use of Force Directive as it relates to the totality of circumstances. Finally, this incident highlighted the breakdown of communication that can occur during an incident such as this. I have asked the Training Division to review training scenarios to ensure they construct a need for situational awareness and ensure that members are trained in identifying the totality of circumstances as required by the Bureau's Use of Force Directive (1010.20).

The Portland Police Bureau remains one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country, partly due to its willingness to learn lessons from officer-involved shootings. The Bureau cannot undo the events of January 29, 2010, but I'm hopeful the community will be reassured the Police Bureau is committed to rebuilding trust through transparency, holding itself accountable and learning from tragic incidents such as this one.

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