



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Boulder Creek Officer Involved Shooting Decision

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Today, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office has determined that Redding Police Department Officers acted in self-defense and defense of others when they fired their weapons striking Stephen Bukwich resulting in his death.

On January 5, 2016, numerous 911 calls were placed regarding a subject who was shooting a gun in the Boulder Creek Drive area. One 911 call came from a neighbor who identified Bukwich as the shooter and said he had fired a gun in the direction of her apartment. All responding officers were notified that Bukwich was using a semiautomatic handgun, had shot in the direction of a neighbor's apartment numerous times, that he had a prior conviction for negligent discharge of a firearm and that numerous apartments in the area were occupied.

Numerous officers arrived at 273 Boulder Creek Drive and set up a perimeter around Apartment A. Bukwich came in and out of his apartment speaking nonsensically. A trained hostage negotiator with the Redding Police Department attempted to hail Bukwich from his residence for an extended period of time. Multiple neighbors confirm hearing the police give Bukwich clear commands to

exit his residence unarmed with his hands up. Bukwich was not cooperative and was unresponsive to officers' directions. Bukwich was informed that officers had a K-9 that would be deployed if he did not comply. The K-9 was ultimately deployed but did not engage Bukwich. Bukwich verbalized to the officers that he had a gun. Officers used less than lethal "beanbag" rounds, striking him twice, but were ineffective in subduing him.

Bukwich continued to be uncooperative, ultimately exiting his apartment with a black semi-automatic pistol raised and aimed in the direction of officers. Realizing the immediate threat, multiple Redding Police Department Officers shot Bukwich. Bukwich's actions presented an immediate threat to the officers and surrounding residents, leaving officers no option but to meet the threat with deadly force. In order to protect the neighborhood and themselves they fired.

Neighbors whom Bukwich shot at prior to police arrival were interviewed. They indicated that Bukwich had been talking nonsensically to them, then retrieved a gun and fired it at them after saying, "do you want some of this too?" One bullet struck the door frame as the neighbors fled inside. People close to Bukwich indicated that he had suffered with mental health issues for nearly 20 years, but on this day he was acting out of character even given his issues.

Bukwich's actions towards officers of the Redding Police Department made it necessary for them to use their firearms to protect themselves and the surrounding neighborhood. The Officers acted in self-defense and defense of others consistent with the laws of the State of California.