



For Immediate Release:

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April 9, 2026

Decision Letter:

Attached is the decision letter issued by District Attorney Brian Mason related to an officer-involved shooting June 5, 2025, involving the Broomfield Police Department.

Body Camera Video:
(Graphic Content)

[BroomfieldOISPreciousChild.mp4](#)

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District Attorney Mason assumed the oath of office on January 12, 2021. The 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office endeavors to seek justice on behalf of the citizens of Adams and Broomfield counties in felony and misdemeanor cases. DA Mason and his staff are dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system to better serve the citizens of the 17th Judicial District.

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April 7, 2026

Chief Enea Hempelmann
Broomfield Police Department
7 DesCombes Drive,
Broomfield, CO 80020

Re: The officer-involved shooting of Mr. Scott Hansen, occurring on June 5, 2025, at 7051 W. 118th Avenue (A Precious Child).

Dear Chief Hempelmann:

This letter is a review of the 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) investigation into the June 5, 2025, officer-involved shooting of Mr. Scott Hansen. The 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team conducted the investigation, led by Westminster Police Detective Neihart. The remaining investigators on the CIRT who worked on this investigation are associated with law enforcement agencies independent of the Broomfield Police Department. The Office of the District Attorney concludes that the investigation was thorough and complete. This letter includes a summary of the facts and materials that the CIRT presented for review, along with my pertinent legal conclusions.

The District Attorney's Office review is limited to determining whether any criminal charges should be filed against any of the involved officers for a violation of Colorado law. The standard of proof for filing a criminal case is whether there is sufficient evidence to prove all the elements of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. The prosecution also has the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of force was not legally justified. This independent investigation and review are not intended to take the place of an internal affairs investigation by your agency. As such, the District Attorney's Office review does not evaluate compliance with any departmental policies, standards, or procedures.

I find the actions of the officers in this incident to be both reasonable and justified. Furthermore, based on the evidence presented and the applicable Colorado law, there is no reasonable likelihood of success of proving the elements of any crime beyond a reasonable doubt as it relates to the actions of Officer Hartman, Officer Fitch, and Officer Mestdagh in this incident. Therefore, no criminal charges will be filed against the involved police officers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

On June 5th, 2025, at 9:10 a.m., an employee of A Precious Child, located at 7051 W. 118th Avenue, called 911 reporting that an individual, Mr. Scott Hansen, separated from his employment and was threatening self-harm. The reporting party, J.A.¹, indicated that Mr. Hansen was near his vehicle, just outside of the business. During the 911 call, Mr. Hansen was reported to be walking back toward the business and repeating that he intended to kill himself. The reporting party described Mr. Hansen as in a rage and attempting to re-gain access to the business. J.A. advised that Mr. Hansen knew the police had been called and indicated he was glad because he was going to have them kill him.

Another employee, C.W., followed Mr. Hansen outside of the building as Mr. Hansen still had keys to gain access to the business. Mr. Hansen approached his vehicle, opened the trunk, and began to throw items inside. C.W. observed a gun fall onto the ground which Mr. Hansen immediately picked up and put in his pocket. Mr. Hansen then advised C.W. he was going to kill himself and C.W. was going to watch. Mr. Hansen made efforts to re-enter the building, but it was locked. C.W. safely re-entered the building as Mr. Hansen proceeded to sit on the curb outside of the business.



Aerial view of A Precious Child, 7051 W. 118th Avenue, Broomfield, Colorado

At approximately 9:14 a.m., Officer Mestdagh with the Broomfield Police Department responded to the scene and contacted the reporting party, J.A., who described the same sequence of events that were described to the 911 dispatcher. It was learned that Mr. Hansen was residing in his vehicle, a 2018 Toyota Camry, which was parked on 118th Ave, south of the business.

¹ Initials are used to maintain the privacy of citizen-witnesses.

Officer Mestdagh made initial contact with Mr. Hansen who was seated on the curb on West 118th Avenue. Mr. Hansen explained to the officer that he knew he was in trouble and did not want to go to jail. He told Officer Mestdagh that he did not have any family or money, was living in this car, and said, "I just want it over, I just want it done." Officer Mestdagh asked Mr. Hansen to keep his hands up, to which he replied, "No, I'd rather you just shoot me." Officer Mestdagh continued to engage in conversation, as Mr. Hansen made several suicidal statements. At approximately 9:16 a.m., Mr. Hansen then told Officer Mestdagh that he had a gun, and Officer Mestdagh advised Mr. Hansen not to reach for it. The conversation continued to develop as additional officers began arriving in the area. Mr. Hansen asked officers to "put him down."

At approximately 9:31 a.m., Mr. Hansen stood up, displaying a revolver in his hand. Several officers commanded him to put the gun down. Mr. Hansen replied, "please, just put me down." Officer Mestdagh then moved to a position of cover behind a parked SUV and drew his weapon on Mr. Hansen. Mr. Hansen continued to make suicidal statements, and officers provided repeated commands for him to drop the gun.

At approximately 9:59 a.m., Sergeant King, a member of the crisis negotiation team, arrived to engage with Mr. Hansen and continue efforts to deescalate the situation. Two officers provided cover for Sergeant King during her negotiations. Broomfield officers utilized a ballistic shield, as the crisis negotiation team took a position to the west of Mr. Hansen. Mr. Hansen advised Sergeant King that he wanted to leave and Sergeant King counseled that they could take him to a hospital.

Negotiations continued and lasted for hours. Sergeant King was positioned near a parked SUV behind two officers, one that had a ballistic shield for protection. The officers providing cover for Sergeant King were on a rotation due to the length of time of the negotiations, as they were sharing responsibilities of maintaining the ballistic shield and providing both less lethal and lethal cover. Just prior to the incident, Sergeant King was behind Officers Hartman and Officer Hefner, who were providing cover during the negotiations. Officer Mestdagh was positioned to the east near a parked privately owned vehicle. Officer Fitch was positioned to the east, just south of Officer Mestdagh, also positioned by the vehicle for cover.

At approximately 12:48 p.m., Mr. Hansen, turned his body toward Sergeant King and the nearby officers and stated, "you look like you're pretty good," then raised his left arm and pointed a revolver at Sergeant King, Officer Hartman and Officer Hefner. As depicted in the body-worn camera footage, Mr. Hansen raised his arm and pointed the revolver at the group of officers. Almost simultaneously, Officer Hartman, Officer Fitch, and Officer Mestdagh discharged their firearms striking Mr. Hansen.

Officer Hartman described hearing Mr. Hansen make suicidal statements. Officer Hartman told Mr. Hansen, "Please don't do this," as Mr. Hansen was staring at him. Officer Hartman heard Mr. Hansen say, "you look like you're pretty good" before raising his arm and pointing the revolver in the officers' direction. Officer Hartman described being in fear of his own life and the lives of the other officers and discharged his Glock 9mm one time. Officer Hartman described being in the direct line of fire at point blank range and was terrified.

Officer Fitch, who was positioned to the east, saw Mr. Hansen turn his body towards the group of officers positioned to the west. Officer Fitch was initially armed with a less lethal 40 mm launcher. However, as he observed the movement of Mr. Hansen, he drew his Glock 9mm. Officer Fitch watched Mr. Hansen raise his arm and point the revolver at the officers. Officer Fitch discharged his firearm two times.

Officer Mestdagh was providing rifle coverage, positioned to the east. Officer Mestdagh described seeing Mr. Hansen raise his left arm with a revolver pointed at a group of four officers. Officer Mestdagh feared for the lives of the officers in the area as they were in the direct line of fire of Mr. Hansen's revolver. Officer Mestdagh fired his rifle one time.

Mr. Hansen suffered several gunshot wounds and was evaluated by North Metro Fire and Rescue on scene. Ultimately, Mr. Hansen succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

BODY-WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE

All the officers were outfitted with body-worn cameras which captured the incident as it unfolded. At approximately 12:48:53 p.m., as observed on Officer Hartman's body-worn camera footage, Mr. Hansen is clearly moving the revolver upwards, pointed towards the officers. Officer Hartman is positioned in front of Sergeant King and next to Officer Hefner who is holding the ballistic shield. At approximately 12:48:54 p.m., as observed on Sergeant King's body-worn camera, Mr. Hansen is pointing the revolver directly at the group of officers. Additionally, on Officer Fitch's body worn camera, Mr. Hansen's arm is outstretched towards the crisis negotiation team. Officer Mestdagh's body worn camera does not capture what was in Officer Mestdagh's line of sight, due to his position behind a vehicle.



View from Officer Hartman's body-worn camera at 12:48:53 p.m., including an enhanced version on the right side.



View from Sergeant King's body-worn camera at 12:48:54 p.m.



View from Officer Fitch's body-worn camera at 12:48:54 p.m.



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION AND AUTOPSY

Criminalists assigned to the CIRT gathered evidence and processed the scene. A Crossman SNR357 Co2 powered revolver was collected that was utilized by Mr. Hansen during this incident. The grip of the revolver had broken off and was located east of the revolver. The Co2 powered revolver had no distinguishing marks to identify it as a non-lethal firearm.



The Co2 powered revolver located at the scene.

Four spent shell casing were recovered from the scene, consistent with the rounds fired by the three officers. Located near one of the privately owned vehicles were three shell casings, one rifle casing and two 9mm casings. One 9mm casing was located near the rear driver's side tire of the privately owned vehicle that the negotiation team used for cover. The shell casings at the scene were consistent with Officer Hartman firing one 9mm round, Officer Fitch firing two 9mm rounds and Officer Mestdagh firing one .556 round rifle. Criminalists used body-worn camera footage and scans from the crime scene to identify approximate locations of the officers at the time they discharged their firearms. Officer Hartman's approximate position was 18.5 feet from Mr. Hansen; Officer Fitch's approximate position was 71.5 feet from Mr. Hansen; and Officer Mestdagh's approximate position was 80.8 feet from Mr. Hansen.

An autopsy was conducted by Forensic Pathologist, Ian Puffenberger, with the Adams County Coroner's Office on June 6, 2025. The forensic pathologist determined the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head. The autopsy demonstrated gunshot wounds of the head and shoulder, with a graze gunshot wound to the face.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

As previously noted, this review is limited to a determination of whether criminal charges should be filed against the involved officers. The decision to file criminal charges involves an assessment of all known facts and circumstances as well as an evaluation of whether there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction at trial under the applicable law. Criminal liability is

established when the evidence is sufficient to prove all the elements of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. In addition to proving the elements of a crime, the prosecution must also disprove any statutorily recognized justification or defense beyond a reasonable doubt. Consequently, to file a criminal charge, the District Attorney's Office must be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the involved law enforcement officer's actions were *not* justified under the circumstances surrounding this incident and the applicable law.

Under Colorado law, a law enforcement officer may use an amount of force – including deadly physical force – that is necessary and reasonable. Additionally, under Colorado law, police officers, like any other individual, have the right to defend themselves or others from the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force. An officer's right to use reasonable force is an affirmative defense, meaning that the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of force was not justified. The affirmative defenses applicable to the officers' use of force at the time of this incident are found at §18-1-707, C.R.S. (2025), and the relevant portions of that subsection provide:

(1) Peace officers, in carrying out their duties, shall apply nonviolent means, when possible, before resorting to the use of physical force. A peace officer may use physical force only if nonviolent means would be ineffective in effecting an arrest, preventing an escape, or preventing an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the peace officer or another person.

...

(2) When physical force is used, a peace officer shall:

(a) Not use deadly physical force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or nonviolent offense;

(b) Use only a degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others....

(3) A peace officer is justified in using deadly physical force to make an arrest only when all other means of apprehension are unreasonable given the circumstances and:

(a) The arrest is for a felony involving conduct including the use or threatened use of deadly physical force;

(b) The suspect poses an immediate threat to the peace officer or another person;

(c) The force employed does not create a substantial risk of injury to other persons.

(4) A peace officer shall identify himself or herself as a peace officer and give a clear verbal warning of his or her intent to use firearms or other deadly physical

force, with sufficient time for the warning to be observed, unless to do so would unduly place peace officers at risk of injury or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons.

(4.5) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this section, a peace officer is justified in using deadly physical force if the peace officers has an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate and the peace officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe, that he or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving serious bodily injury.

The U.S. Supreme Court seminal case of *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), the Court has forth a standard of “objective reasonableness” in evaluating the use of force by a police officer. Under this standard, the inquiry into the appropriateness of an officer’s use of force must (1) take into consideration the totality of the circumstances, including factors such as the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight; and (2) be judged from the perspective of an objectively reasonable officer on the scene “in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to [his] underlying intent or motivation.” Further, the United States Supreme Court notes, “[t]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.” *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. at 396-97.

Accordingly, applying the proper legal standard in this case, the critical inquiry is whether an objectively reasonable officer, confronted with the same facts and circumstances, would have concluded that Mr. Scott Hansen posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or other persons such that the use of force, including deadly physical force, was necessary. Here, the officers involved responded to a report of a suicidal party. Law enforcement made continued efforts to communicate peacefully with Mr. Hansen, employing the use of a trained crisis negotiator which lasted for over three hours. Ultimately, the officers watched as Mr. Hansen turned his body to face the crisis negotiation team. Mr. Hansen stated, “you look like you’re pretty good,” as he raised his arm and pointed a revolver directly at the officers. Officer Hartman, Officer Fitch and Officer Mestdagh described being in fear for their lives and the lives of the other officers. Although it was later determined that the revolver Mr. Hansen presented was a CO2 revolver, the officers’ perception at the time was that he presented a real firearm. The revolver was not outfitted with any mechanism that would have identified to the officers that it was anything other than a firearm.

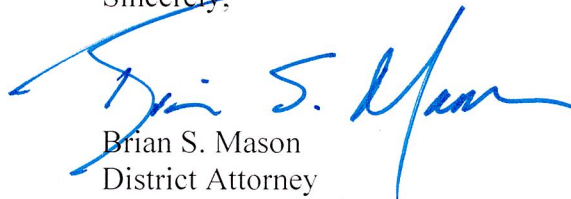
I find the actions of Officer Hartman, Officer Fitch and Officer Mestdagh to be both reasonable and justified. This was a tragic situation and the outcome, too, was tragic, particularly so with a former employee outside an organization such as A Precious Child that does so much to help others and serve the community. It is clear that Mr. Hansen was suicidal that day and that he sought to commit “suicide by cop.” Indeed, he specifically asked the officers to shoot him and to “put him down.” The involved officers handled this difficult and challenging situation with empathy and professionalism, seeking to resolve the situation peacefully, offering help and encouragement, and promising to take Mr. Hansen to the hospital.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hansen's decision to point what appeared to be a firearm directly at the officers left those officers with no alternative but to respond with lethal force. A reasonable person would have perceived Mr. Hansen's conduct with the weapon as a mortal threat to the safety of the officers and all others in the vicinity. Mr. Hansen's conduct led Officer Hartman, Officer Fitch and Officer Mestdagh to exercise split-second, and indeed, reasonable judgment in a tense and quickly evolving situation. This conclusion is confirmed by the body-worn camera footage. There is no evidence to suggest that an objectively reasonable officer would have acted differently than the officers did during this incident. The officers did precisely what they were trained to do and kept the community safe in the process. The officers' actions here were difficult but necessary, and certainly both reasonable and justified. Consequently, no charges will be filed against them.

CONCLUSION

Given the totality of the circumstances and evidence, the prosecution cannot prove that the involved officers were not justified in using reasonable force under C.R.S. §18-1-707, (2025). Therefore, applying the facts of this incident to the applicable law, the evidence does not support the filing of any criminal charges against Broomfield Officer Keith Hartman, Officer Drew Fitch, or Officer Benjamin Mestdagh and no charges will be filed. Please contact me if you have questions or if you believe further investigation is warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian S. Mason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian S. Mason
District Attorney