

PRESS RELEASE
12/29/16

On Friday December 23, 2016 at 10:31 p.m. Michael Tyler Jacques was shot and killed by two unidentified Bend police officers in downtown Bend. The officers responded to calls to emergency dispatch of an erratic driver. According to dispatch records, the first call to 9-1-1 came in at 22:26:51. Shots were fired less than 5 minutes later at 22:31:15 (10:31).

Mr. Jacques pulled into a parking lot away from the public coming to complete stop. A videotape of the shooting shows the driver side door open, officers standing between Mr. Jacques and the door when shots can be heard. Mr. Jacques was apparently still seat belted into the car when one or both officers discharged their weapons approximately 4-5 times at point blank or close range. Mr. Jacques was unarmed and traveling with his service dog at the time. The officers were placed on administrative leave and were not interviewed until they had an opportunity to meet with union representatives.

The Bend Police Department immediately issued press releases implying Tyler Jacques was to blame for his own death in what is apparently an attempt to manipulate public opinion and influence the investigation. Chief Jim Porter and DA John Hummel gave a press conference within 12 hours of the shooting. The Jacques family retained Michelle Burrows and Jennifer Coughlin to represent them on this matter. The Family urges Bend PD and the Oregon State Police to conduct a fair and honorable investigation of this shooting not with the goal of exonerating the officers but with the sole purpose of determining the truth of what occurred that night. The family requests the authorities conduct the appropriate forensic analysis to determine where the weapons were position when fired and why Tyler Jacques was shot at close range during a traffic stop with no evidence of a weapon present. Law enforcement may only use deadly force when facing imminent threat of deadly harm to themselves or others. Officers may not create a dangerous situation to justify killing a civilian.

The Jacques family requests the DA and the investigative agencies not comment on this matter publicly until all the evidence is gathered and released. Witness contacted by investigators for the family were advised law enforcement suggested those witnesses refrain from speaking with anyone but law enforcement. These various actions by law enforcement send a disturbing message of cover up and a profound lack of empathy with the victims of police violence which is the opposite of responsible conduct the public expects of law enforcement. The family is declining to speak publicly and requests anyone who witnessed the shooting or has videotapes of the incident call the lawyers noted in this release.

This situation calls for a hero and we hope Mr. Hummel and Chief Porter are those heroes as this investigation goes forth.