

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

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| Force Type (s): | Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal |
| Incident Date: | March 25, 2024 |
| Publication Date: | September 25, 2024 |
| Involved MPD Member(s): Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender: | Officer Special Operations Division White/Male |
| Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident: | Dog 1 |
| Use of Force Review Board Date: | September 3, 2024 |

SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE

Officer 1 (OFC1) discharged his service pistol one time at Dog 1, which was struck and died. Consistent with MPD policy, this use of force incident was referred to MPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) for investigation. The MPD's use of force investigative procedures are outlined in [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#). After all available evidence was collected and analyzed, and statements from police and civilian witnesses were reviewed, the IAD final investigative report was completed on July 1, 2024. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT

1. On March 25, 2024, at approximately 6:20 PM, OFC1 and other MPD members were flagged down by a citizen for a dog that was reportedly loose and biting a child in the 800 block of 49th Street, Northeast.

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE

2. Upon arriving on the scene, OFC1 and another officer observed Dog 1 biting a woman on the arm.
3. OFC1 approached Dog 1, which was still biting the woman, and discharged a single round at Dog 1, striking it.
4. Dog 1 released its bite of the woman and subsequently died.
5. There was a second loose dog on scene which was OC sprayed by another officer when it approached them.

ACTIONS AFTER THE USE OF FORCE

6. Two juvenile children of the woman who was bit were also bitten by Dog 1. DCFEMS transported the woman and her children to area hospitals for their injuries.

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7. A Humane Rescue Alliance-District of Columbia Animal Care and Control Officer responded to the scene and collected the remains of Dog 1.

PROSECUTORIAL REVIEW BY THE US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (USAO)

As outlined in MPD policy, [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#), the discharge of a firearm at an animal is considered a serious use of force. Consistent with [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#), the Director of the Internal Affairs Division authorized the issuance of the Reverse Garrity warning in this case. This incident did not meet the requirements for prosecutorial review by USAO.

**FINDINGS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (IAD) ADMINISTRATIVE
INVESTIGATION**

On August 12, 2024, the IAD final investigation made the following findings based on a preponderance of the evidence regarding the use of force by the involved member:

- The Use of Force- Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal (One Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED.**

FINDINGS OF THE USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

On July 15, 2024, the UFRB convened to review the final investigative report prepared by the IAD and the evidence regarding the use of force by the involved member. The UFRB ruled:

- The Use of Force- Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal (One Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED.**