

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT**

<b>Force Type (s):</b>	Discharge of a Firearm at an Animal
<b>Incident Date:</b>	March 28, 2024
<b>Publication Date:</b>	September 25, 2024
<b>Involved MPD Member(s):</b> <b>Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender:</b>	Officer 1 Fourth District White/Male
<b>Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident:</b>	Dog 1
<b>Use of Force Review Board Date:</b>	July 15, 2024

**SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE**

Officer 1 (OFC1) discharged his service pistol at the subject of the force, a dog. The discharged round struck the floor, missing the dog. 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 June 27, 2024. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

**EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT**

1. On Thursday, March 28, 2024, approximately 10:23 AM, Fourth District officers responded to the 4500 block of Clermont Drive, Northwest, for a call for service regarding a dog bite.

**EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE**

2. The first arriving officer (OFC1) observed the owner of the dog in the hallway outside the residence, holding a knife. The owner of the dog stated she had stabbed the dog after it had attacked her grandchild.
3. OFC1 observed the dog in the doorway.
4. OFC1 discharged his service pistol one (1) time at the dog. The discharged round did not strike the dog, instead striking the floor.

**ACTIONS AFTER THE USE OF FORCE**

5. The canine ran onto the balcony through the open balcony door.
6. Another officer arrived on the scene and secured the dog on the balcony to wait for the arrival of the Humane Rescue Alliance - District of Columbia Animal Care and Control.

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7. The dog was humanly euthanized by the HRA/DC AC&C due to the stabbing wounds it sustained from its owner.

**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 June 27, 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 (Single 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 (Single Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED**.