

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

Force Type (s):	Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal
Incident Date:	April 25, 2024
Publication Date:	September 25, 2024
Involved MPD Member(s): Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender:	Officer 1 Fourth District Black/Male
Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident:	Dog 1 Dog 2
Use of Force Review Board Date:	September 3, 2024

SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE

Officer 1 (OFC1) discharged his service pistol at Dog 1 and in the direction of Dog 2, both of which were 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 August 12, 2024. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT

On April 25, 2024, at approximately 1344 hours, OFC1 responded to a residence in the 3600 block of 11th Street, Northwest, for a possible stabbing.

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE

1. Upon arriving on the scene, OFC1 noticed a broken window on the basement level of the residence and knocked on the front door but received no response.
2. OFC1 began to walk through the rear alley of the 3600 block of 11th Street, Northwest, to check the back of the residence and heard multiple dogs barking.
3. As OFC1 walked through the alley, Dog 1 pushed the back gate of another residence open and began to run towards OFC1. Dog 2 ran behind Dog 1.
4. OFC1 raised his right arm, holding his issued service pistol, and fired three (3) rounds in quick succession. The first round appeared to strike the ground to the left of Dog 1 and struck Dog 2.
5. The second round appeared to strike the ground in front of Dog 1 and ricocheted, grazing its leg.
6. The third round struck Dog 1 in the side of the torso.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

7. Dog 1 and Dog 2 subsequently died.

ACTIONS AFTER THE USE OF FORCE

8. A Humane Rescue Alliance-District of Columbia Animal Care and Control Officer responded to the scene and collected the remains of Dog 1 and Dog 2.

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

FINDINGS OF THE USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

On September 3, 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 (First Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED**.
- The Use of Force- Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal (Second Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED**.
- The Use of Force- Discharge of a Service Pistol at an Animal (Third Round) by OFC1 was **JUSTIFIED**.