

PRESS NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DA's Office Completes Review of Officer Involved Shooting

DA's Office Deems Actions Lawful in Second S. Salt Lake Incident

SALT LAKE CITY – The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office has issued a letter to the South Salt Lake Police Department notifying the police agency that the actions leading to the shooting of Mr. Ronald Evan Larsen were lawful under Utah Code Title 26, chapter 2, Part 4.

Evidence reviewed by the DA's Office indicates that on January 23, 2008, Officers Chase Hermansen and Stephen Bernards from the South Salt Lake Police Department responded to a domestic violence call at 3100 South Washington Street. As Officer Hermansen approached the residence, Mr. Larsen exited the home and came out onto the porch. In doing so, Mr. Larsen raised a gun which pointed at Officer Hermansen. Both officers issued multiple commands for Mr. Larsen to drop his weapon. As Officer Hermansen was directing Mr. Larsen to drop his weapon, Officer Hermansen retreated across the street. While Officer Hermansen was retreating, Mr. Larsen fired upon the officer. Once Mr. Larsen fired, both officers returned fired, hitting and killing Mr. Larsen.

The District Attorney's Office reviews Officer Involved Critical Incidents (OICI) to determine whether any criminal action has occurred on the part of the officers. A decision not to file criminal charges does not indicate that an officer's actions are justified according to a given law enforcement agency's policies, procedures, and training. Whether or not an officer is cleared to return to active duty is a determination left to the employing police agency.

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