



SALT LAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
2001 S. STATE STREET, S3500  
www.districtattorney.slco.org

# PRESS NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009  
**Contact:** Alicia Cook, (801)201-9900

## **DA's Office Completes Review of Officer Involved Shooting**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office has issued a letter to the West valley City Police Department and the Midvale City Police Department notifying both agencies that Detective Darren Mower's use of a firearm against Mr. Michael Ray Williamson was lawful under Utah Code Title 76 chapter 2 part 4. Due to the fact that the District Attorney's Office has filed felony charges against Mr. Williamson, the District Attorney's Office is only releasing information that is in the public record concerning this matter. The following was taken from the charging document that was filed in State v. Michael Ray Williamson:

"The statement of Officer Mower of the West Valley City Police Department that on July 1, 2009, he responded to 1300 East Fort Union Boulevard in Salt Lake County, State of Utah to investigate a hit and run that involved defendant MICHAEL RAY WILLIAMSON. Officer Mower observed the defendant enter the parking lot at the residence in a vehicle. Officer Mower motioned for him to stop and approach him. The defendant accelerated at a high rate of speed away from the residence. Officer Mower activated his emergency equipment in an attempt to initiate a traffic stop but was unable to catch up to the defendant. Officer Mower deactivated his emergency equipment and discontinued the pursuit.



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Officer Mower returned to the above residence, called the defendant and left him a voice mail message telling him to return to the residence. The defendant returned to the residence and stopped in the center lane. The defendant observed Officer Mower and accelerated rapidly away. Officer Mower activated his emergency equipment again and pursued the defendant. The defendant entered a residential area and Officer Mower performed a pit maneuver which was successful. The defendant's vehicle spun and stopped. Officer Mower exited the vehicle, drew his handgun and approached the vehicle. The defendant accelerated towards Officer Mower. Officer Mower feared for his safety and stepped to the side. Officer Mower fired two rounds towards the tire area on the defendant's vehicle. The defendant backed up the vehicle rapidly and drove away."

The District Attorney has reviewed this matter under Utah Code section 76-2-404 and 76-2-403, and determined that the officer's actions are justified under 76-2-404(1)(c) and 76-2-403. Section 76-2-404(1)(c) states that a peace officer is justified in using deadly force when the officer reasonably believes that the use of deadly force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. Section 76-2-403 states that a peace officer is justified in using force which he reasonable believes is necessary to effect an arrest or defend himself from bodily harm while making an arrest.

The District Attorney's Office reviews Officer Involved Critical Incidents to determine whether the officer's actions were legally justified under the Utah Code. Whether an officer returns to active duty is determined by the employing agency.

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