



**CLARK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
STEVEN B. WOLFSON**

District Attorney

200 Lewis Avenue • Las Vegas, NV 89101 • 702-671-2500 • Fax: 702-455-2294 • TTY and other relay services: 711

MARY-ANNE MILLER
County Counsel

CHRISTOPHER LALLI
Assistant District Attorney

ROBERT DASKAS
Assistant District Attorney

JEFFREY J. WITTHUN
Director D.A. Family Support

BRIGID J. DUFFY
Director D.A. Juvenile

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Audrie Locke
Clark County District Attorney's Office

Phone: (702) 671-2500
Fax: (702) 868-2415
E-mail: Media@ClarkCountyDA.com

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DA's Office Releases Report on the Death of Pedro Ramirez

In a report released today involving the death of Pedro Ramirez on June 20, 2017, the Clark County District Attorney's Office has determined that the actions of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) officers were not criminal in nature.

On June 20, 2017, officers responded to a domestic disturbance call. The caller reported hearing screaming and crying coming from an apartment. When officers arrived, they made contact with the victim in her apartment, and she initially told them everything was fine. The officers insisted that she open the security screen so they could confirm she was unharmed. As the victim and her four-year-old son exited the apartment, she told officers there was nobody else in the apartment, and she gave them permission to enter the apartment to confirm this.

As the officers searched the apartment, they discovered Mr. Ramirez hiding in the walk-in closet in the master bedroom. He was holding a large butcher knife. Officers gave commands for Mr. Ramirez to drop the knife. He ignored the commands and advanced toward the officers. Two officers discharged their Tasers, but they had little effect on Mr. Ramirez. He then charged toward the officers with the knife still in his hand. One officer fired his handgun, striking Mr. Ramirez three times. He fell to the ground and the officer kicked away the knife and attempted to handcuff Mr. Ramirez. As he resisted being taken into custody, he told officers, "Just kill me." The officers rendered medical aid until he was transported to UMC. Mr. Ramirez was pronounced dead at UMC.

The autopsy toxicology report showed that Mr. Ramirez had only caffeine in his system.

"In this instance, the officers attempted to first use non-lethal force to detain Mr. Ramirez," said District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "When the Tasers did not stop him from charging at the officers with a knife, they used lethal force to stop him. The body cam footage clearly shows the confined space they were in, and the imminent threat posed by Mr. Ramirez."

A Police Fatality Public Fact-Finding Review was conducted in this incident on March 9, 2018. Clark County Code mandates such a review when a police-involved death occurs, and the prosecutor preliminarily determines that no criminal prosecution of the officers is appropriate

The determination that the officer acted lawfully in this situation is based upon the evidence available at this time. The case could be reexamined if new information comes to light.

The full report is available on the District Attorney's [Web page](#).