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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

March 13, 2019

DA's Office Releases Report on the Death of Christopher Gatewood

In a report released today involving the death of Christopher Gatewood on March 29, 2018, the Clark County District Attorney's Office has determined that the actions of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) officers involved were legally justified and reasonable.

On March 29, 2018, LVMPD officers responded to a domestic violence related call at 2000 Paradise Road. Upon arrival, the officers were informed by the victim that her boyfriend, Christopher Gatewood, had grabbed her and punched her before she was able to escape their apartment. She further reported that Mr. Gatewood was armed with a knife and told her that, if she called the police, he would hurt them or himself.

Officers approached the 3rd floor apartment, identified themselves as police officers and ordered Mr. Gatewood to exit the apartment. Initially, he ignored their commands; however, he then announced that he was coming out of the apartment. He opened the door to the apartment while holding a knife to his own throat. He challenged the officers by yelling, "What are you going to do?" as he raised the knife and lunged toward officers. The position of the officers, which was clearly depicted by the officers' body-worn cameras, was within five to eight feet of Mr. Gatewood. One officer, who was assigned to use low-lethal force, fired his taser. The other two officers discharged their firearms, striking and killing Mr. Gatewood. The entire incident - - from the time the officers knocked on the apartment door to the time Mr. Gatewood lunged with the knife and shots were fired - - lasted four minutes and sixteen seconds.

An autopsy revealed that Mr. Gatewood had a prescription tranquilizer in his system, which is used to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

"This was not the first time officers had responded to a domestic situation at this apartment. However, this time Mr. Gatewood chose to disregard officers' commands and instead lunged at them with a deadly weapon," said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "The position of the officers in relation to Mr. Gatewood at the time of the incident put them, and innocent bystanders in the apartment complex, in imminent danger of sustaining substantial bodily harm or death. Mr. Gatewood's actions left the officers no other choice but to use deadly force."

A Police Fatality Fact-Finding Review was conducted in this incident on February 26, 2019. Clark County Code mandates such a review when a police-involved death occurs, and the prosecutor preliminarily determines that no criminal prosecution of the officer is appropriate.

The determination that the officers 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](#).