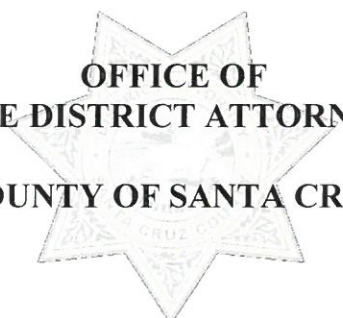


JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2400
dao@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Website

<http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2017**

Contact: Jeff Rosell (831) 454-2597

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COMPLETES INVESTIGATION
OF SANTA CRUZ POLICE OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING**


Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffery S. Rosell today announced a Santa Cruz police officer will not face criminal charges in the tragic shooting death of 32-year-old Santa Cruz resident Sean Arlt, which took place on Oct. 16, 2016.

The specific role of the District Attorney's Office in an officer-involved shooting is to determine if a crime occurred. The investigation included interviews with officers, witnesses and others, as well as review of a dashcam video, audio recordings and numerous reports from SCPD officers and the Coroner's Office. The investigation does not make recommendations on police policy, officer training or other topics.

"What happened early in the early morning hours of Oct. 16, 2016, was a tragedy for Mr. Arlt's family and our community," said District Attorney Rosell. "At the request of the Santa Cruz Police Department, we conducted an independent investigation. We evaluated the circumstances of the officer-involved shootings as it related to criminal liability for the officer. Following an extensive, independent investigation, we found no legal wrongdoing on the part of Santa Cruz Police Department officer, Erik Bailey."

For related audio and video recordings, please contact Nicholas Lucchesi at
Nicholas.Lucchesi@santacruzcounty.us or 831-454-2532.

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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

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INCIDENT SUMMARY

At 3:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16, Officer Bailey and three other Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) officers responded to two 9-1-1 calls involving Mr. Sean Arlt at a home on the 200 block of Chace Street.

Responding officers were aware that fellow SCPD officers had been called to the same location five days prior because Arlt was acting erratic. In the earlier incident, on Tuesday, Oct. 11, Arlt refused to cooperate with officers and was tazed before officers could restrain him. He was taken to Santa Cruz County's Mental Health Services Center for a 72-hour observation hold and released the following day.

The 9-1-1 calls early Sunday came from a resident at a home on the 200 block of Chace Street who requested police assistance because Mr. Arlt was banging on the door to his home and threatening to kill those inside of the house. The resident, who had known Mr. Arlt for many years, indicated on the call that he feared for his safety and the safety of two others living there.

Aware of Mr. Arlt's recent history with SCPD, all available officers were sent to the call. Four officers arrived at the scene together at 3:39 a.m. There, they observed the 9-1-1 caller in the window of the residence and Mr. Arlt outside, hitting the door with what appeared to be an umbrella.

The officers' approach to the situation included designating two officers to use less-than-lethal means to control Mr. Arlt. The two others would be backup with their weapons. Also, two of the officers involved in the response are part of SCPD Hostage Negotiation team and were prepared to utilize appropriate protocols if the opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Arlt briefly vanished from the officers' view. Officers asked him to please come out and speak with them. When he did come back into sight, Mr. Arlt was wielding a 5-foot-tall bow rake with solid steel tines. He opened a gate and rapidly advanced on officers. Officers repeatedly gave commands to Mr. Arlt to drop the rake. The two officers armed with less-than-lethal force deployed their Tasers a total of three times. The Tasers failed to stop or slow Mr. Arlt. Mr. Arlt increased his speed toward the officers and raised the rake higher. When Mr. Arlt was 7 to 12 feet from them, Officer Bailey fired two rounds from his duty weapon.

Mr. Arlt was struck twice, in the head and the torso. Officers immediately provided medical aid and requested Santa Cruz Fire and American Medical Response respond to the scene. Mr. Arlt was declared dead at the scene at 4 a.m.

INCIDENT TIMELINE

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016

- 9:20 PM – Officers dispatched to “5150” call from a resident on the 200 block Chace Street regarding Sean Arlt.
- Mr. Arlt was transported to Telecare (Santa Cruz County Mental Health Facility) for a 72-hour hold. He was released the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016

- 3:30 AM – 911 call received from a resident on the 200 block Chace Street.
- 3:36 – Second 911 call received from the same resident on the 200 block Chace Street.
- 3:39 – Three Santa Cruz Police officers and one Sergeant arrived on scene.
- 3:41 – Less-than-lethal force used.
 - 3:41 – Taser deployment by Officer #1
 - 3:41 – Taser deployment by Officer #1
 - 3:42 – Taser deployment by Sergeant
- 3:42 – Two shots fired by Officer #3.
- 3:42 – AMR and Santa Cruz Fire called to assist. SCPD officers render medical aid to Mr. Arlt.
- 4:00 – Mr. Arlt declared dead at the scene.