



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

Telephone 512/854-9400

Telefax 512/854-4206

JOSÉ P. GARZA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TRUDY STRASSBURGER
FIRST ASSISTANT

Travis County DA Civil Rights Unit Case Summaries - January 31, 2022

The following is a current list of each officer-involved use of force or other misconduct matter involving injury to any person currently pending in the Office's Civil Rights Unit.

INDICTED CASES

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS LANDO HALL, D-1-DC-19-900105: At the time of the incident, Mr. Hall was employed as a police officer with the Austin Police Department. On Monday, January 4, 2021, APD Officer Lando Hall was indicted for the felony offense of Misuse of Official Information, a third-degree felony under Section 39.06(b) of the Texas Penal Code by the 147th Special Grand Jury – Extended July 2020 term. The case is pending in the 403rd Judicial District Court.

The next court setting is February 9, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. CHANCE BRETCHES, D-1-DC-20-900091: At the time of the incident, Mr. Bretches was employed as a police officer with the Austin Police Department. On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, Officer Bretches was indicted with Aggravated Assault by a Public Servant, Serious Bodily Injury/Deadly Weapon, a first-degree felony by the extended 147th Extended Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 299th District Court.

The next court setting is February 17, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. AUSTIN JOHNSTON, D-1-DC-19-900021: At the time of the incident, Mr. Johnston was employed as a trooper with the Department of Public Safety. On Friday, August 21, 2020, Trooper Johnston was indicted with Aggravated Assault by a Public Servant, a first-degree felony, Deadly Conduct, a third-degree felony, and Tampering with Physical Evidence, a third-degree felony by the 460th Extended Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 390th District Court.

The next court setting is February 17, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. JAMES JOHNSON, D-1-DC-20-900070: At the time of the incident, Mr. Johnson was employed as a deputy with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. On Monday, March 29, 2021, Deputy Johnson was indicted with Manslaughter, a second-degree felony, by the 147th Extended Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 299th District Court.

The next court setting is February 24, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. ZACHARY CAMDEN, D-1-DC-20-900069: At the time of the incident, Mr. Camden was employed as a deputy with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. On Monday, March 29, 2021, Deputy Camden was indicted with Manslaughter, a second-degree felony, by the 147th Extended Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 299th District Court.

The next court setting is February 24, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, D-1-DC-19-900111: At the time of the incident, Mr. Taylor was employed as an officer for the Austin Police Department. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, Mr. Taylor was indicted for Murder, a first-degree felony, and for Deadly Conduct Discharge of Firearm, a third-degree felony by the 331st Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 167th District Court.

The next court setting is February 25, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. KARL KRYCIA, D-1-DC-21-900071: At the time of the incident, Mr. Krycia was employed as an officer for the Austin Police Department. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, Mr. Krycia was indicted for Murder, a first-degree felony, and for Deadly Conduct Discharge of Firearm, a third-degree felony by the 331st Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 167th District Court.

The next court setting is February 25, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, D-1-DC-20-900048: At the time of the incident, Mr. Taylor was employed as an officer with the Austin Police Department. On Wednesday, March 10, 2021, Officer Taylor was indicted with Murder, a first-degree felony, by the 147th Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 167th District Court.

The next court setting is February 25, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. SHANNON OWENS, D-1-DC-20-900003: At the time of the incident, Mr. Owens was employed as a corrections officer with the Travis County Sheriff's Office. On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, TCSO Deputy Owens was indicted with Aggravated Perjury, a third-degree felony, and Tampering with Governmental Record with the intent to defraud or harm another, a state jail felony by the 147th Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 450th District Court.

The next court setting is March 8, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. ROBERT CHODY, D-1-DC-21-904036: At the time of the incident, Mr. Chody was the elected Sheriff in Williamson County. On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Mr. Chody was indicted Tampering with Physical Evidence with Intent to Impair, a third-degree felony by the 147th Extended Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 299th District Court.

The next court setting is March 29, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS. JASON NASSOUR, D-1-DC-21-904035: At the time of the incident, Mr. Nassour was employed as General Counsel for the Williamson County Office. On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Mr. Nassour was indicted Tampering with Physical Evidence with Intent to Impair, a third-degree felony by the 147th Extended Special Grand Jury. The case is pending in the 299th District Court.

The next court setting is March 29, 2022.

INDICTED: STATE OF TEXAS VS NATHANIEL STALLINGS, D-1-DC-19-904051, D-1-DC-21-904041: At the time of the incident, Mr. Stallings, then a licensed peace officer, was employed as a police officer with the Austin Police Department. On October 6, 2017, while on duty and in uniform in a fully marked Austin Police Department patrol vehicle, Mr. Stallings is alleged to have caused bodily injury to a civilian. Mr. Stallings was indicted on June 25, 2018, and charged with Assault and Abuse of Official Capacity. Both cases are pending in the 450th District Court.

This next court setting is April 25, 2022.

Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there are currently no criminal jury trials in Travis County

UNINDICTED

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD / SUBJECT OFFICERS: NICHOLAS GEBHART (Date of Incident: 05/30/2020): On May 30, 2020, Complainant, a Minor, was attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos that occurred in downtown Austin and was struck with “bean bag” ammunition and “rubber bullets.”

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: BOMANI RAY BARTON / SUBJECT OFFICER: KYU AN (Date of Incident: 05/30/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Barton, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck with “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: GEMICAH VOLTER-JONES / SUBJECT OFFICER: DERRICK LEHMAN (Date of Incident: 5/30/2020): On May 30, 2020, Mr. Volter-Jones, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: MEREDITH WILLIAMS / SUBJECT OFFICER: JOSEPH CAST (Date of Incident: 5/30/2020): On May 30, 2020, Ms. Williams, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NICOLE UNDERWOOD / SUBJECT OFFICER: JOHN SIEGEL (Date of Incident: 5/30/2020): On May 30, 2020, Mr. Underwood, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: MEREDITH DRAKE / SUBJECT OFFICER: CHANCE BRETCHES (Date of Incident: 05/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Drake, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition. Officer Bretches was indicted on 1/20/2021 on Aggravated Assault by Public Servant on an unrelated case.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: ANTHONY EVANS / SUBJECT OFFICER: KYLE FELTON (Date of Incident: 05/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Evans, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: JUSTIN HOWELL / SUBJECT OFFICER: JEFFREY TENG (Date of Incident: 5/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Howell, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: SAMUEL KIRSCH / SUBJECT OFFICER: Officer ROLAN RAST (Date of Incident: 5/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Kirsch, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: CHRISTEN WARKOCZEWSKI / SUBJECT OFFICERS: JUSTIN BERRY; ALEXANDER LOMOSTEV, TODD GIBLERTSON, STANLEY VICK, CHRISTIAN IRWIN, JEREMY FISHER & JOSHUA JACKSON (Date of Incident: 5/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Ms. Williams, attending a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos, was struck by “bean bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: TYREE TALLEY/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 5/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Talley attended a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos was struck by “bean-bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: MODESTO RODRIGUEZ/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 5/31/2020): On May 31, 2020, Mr. Rodriguez attended a protest in downtown Austin following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos was struck by “bean-bag” ammunition.

The investigation into and review of the use of force allegations arising out of the May 30 and May 31, 2021 protests is still underway. The cases are expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early fall of 2021 and continue into the winter of 2022.

DECEDENT: ENRIQUE QUIROZ / SUBJECT OFFICERS: EDUARDO PINEDA, SPENCER HANNA, ZANE DOWDELL, LUCAS PARKER, MARK YALETCHKO and TRINITHAD GARCIA (Date of Incident: 03/21/2020): Mr. Quiroz died while in the custody of the Austin Police Department after an encounter with multiple officers on March 31, 2020.

We expect that this case will be presented to a grand jury in the early spring of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: F. ZIMMERMAN (Pseudonym) / SUBJECT OFFICER: WALTER DODDS (Date of Incident: 04/18/2020): On April 18, 2020, while responding to a service call involving Ms. Zimmerman, Mr. Dodds, then an Austin Police Department officer encountered Ms. Zimmerman and is alleged to have later returned to her residence and alleged to have sexually assaulted her.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation conducted by the Travis County District Attorney's Sexual Assault Unit and the Civil Rights Unit. This case is expected to be presented to a Travis County grand jury in the early spring of 2022.

DECEDENT: ALEXANDER GONZALES / SUBJECT OFFICER: LUIS SERRATO AND GABRIEL GUTIERREZ (Date of Incident: 01/05/2021): On January 5, 2021, Mr. Alexander Gonzales died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds in an incident involving an off-duty Austin Police Department officer and another officer who was on duty, both of whom discharged their weapons striking Mr. Gonzales.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 3/12/2021): On March 12, 2021, the civilian was arrested for an active warrant. While officers attempted to place the civilian under arrest, the civilian victim was struck by a baton and tased.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 11/26/2020): On November 26, 2020, the civilian was arrested for interfering with a crime scene which was investigated by Austin Police Department. The victim was struck by the subject officer while being handcuffed.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

SUBJECT OFFICERS: MICHAEL BARBA/JASON CUMMINS/DERRICK LEHMAN (Date of Incident: 08/19/2021): On August 19, 2021, a civilian was shot and tased by Austin Police Department Officers. The civilian is expected to recover from his injuries.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

DESCENDANT: RONALD ZAVAGLIA/SUBJECT OFFICER: IAN CLARK (Date of Incident: 08/19/2021): On August 19, 2021, Mr. Zavaglia died as a result of a gunshot wound in an incident with the Pflugerville Police Department.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 09/18/2021): On September 18, 2021, the civilian was struck by an Austin Police Department Officer after multiple requests to leave the area.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early spring of 2022.

DECENDENT: MICHAEL CAROTHERS/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 10/09/2021): On October 09, 2021, there was gunfire between civilians. Subsequently, an officer discharged his weapon. Mr. Carothers died as a result of a gunshot wound.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early summer of 2022.

DECENDENT: ROBERT RICHART/SUBJECT OFFICERS: ERIC STRNAD (Date of Incident: 10/27/2021) On October 27, 2021, Mr. Richart died as a result of a gunshot wound fired by an Austin Police Department officer on October 27, 2021.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early summer of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: JAVIER RODRIGUEZ (Date of Incident: 12/24/2021) On 12/24/2021, a civilian was shot by Austin Police Department Officers. The civilian is expected to recover from his injuries.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early summer of 2022.

COMPLAINT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: June 24, 2021): On June 24, 2021, the juvenile civilian was struck by "bean bag" ammunition, a less-lethal while officers were executing a search warrant and arrest warrant.

The case is currently under investigation with the Travis County District Attorney's Office Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a timeframe that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence no later than early fall of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: SIMONE GRIFFITH/ SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident: 10/30/2021): On October 30, 2021, Ms. Griffith was arrested for criminal trespass. While officers attempted to place Ms. Griffith under arrest, she was struck by Austin Police Department Officers.

The case is currently under investigation with the Travis County District Attorney's Office Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a timeframe that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence no later than early fall of 2022.

COMPLAINANT: NAME WITHHELD/SUBJECT OFFICER: NAME WITHHELD (Date of Incident 01/29/2022) On 1/29/2022, a civilian was shot by Austin Police Department Officers. The civilian is expected to recover from his injuries.

The case is currently under investigation in a joint investigation involving the Austin Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Travis County District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit. Our Office expects that the investigation should be concluded within a time frame that will allow the case to be presented to a grand jury in a manner consistent with our policies and in the order of its chronological occurrence not later than early fall of 2022.