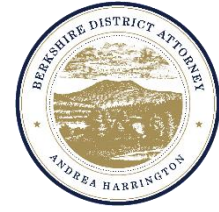




# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## BERKSHIRE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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**ANDREA HARRINGTON**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2022

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### **Berkshire State Police Detective Unit Investigating Officer-Involved Shooting in Pittsfield**

The Berkshire District Attorney's Office and the Berkshire State Police Detective Unit are investigating the shooting death of 22-year-old Miguel Estrella by a Pittsfield Police Officer.

Pittsfield Police responded to the 279 Onota Street Friday night shortly before 10 p.m. after receiving 911 calls from multiple callers requesting assistance. Callers alerted dispatch that Estrella had a history of mental illness, was cutting himself and was currently located outside of the apartment building. County Ambulance was also dispatched and responded to the scene and offered emergency medical services and transport to the hospital which Estrella declined.

Shortly after officers and emergency medical personnel departed from 279 Onota Street, a third 911 call came in requesting that officers return due to Estrella "acting crazy again," according to the caller who also stated that "he needs to be taken to the hospital." Pittsfield Police and County Ambulance were again dispatched to 279 Onota Street at approximately 10:10 p.m. Two Pittsfield Police officers arrived ahead of County Ambulance and encountered Estrella near the entrance of the apartment building at 279 Onota Street. An eyewitness account confirms that Estrella had a knife in his hands when police were there. Estrella advanced towards the officers and there is evidence at the scene that the officers deployed TASERS, which were unsuccessful in stopping him. One of the officers then shot Estrella twice.

The officers then attempted to render lifesaving aid. County Ambulance then arrived and transported Estrella to Berkshire Medical Center where he subsequently died.

"I send my deep condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Estrella for their loss. The State Police Detective Unit is conducting a thorough investigation to determine exactly what happened that led to this tragic death," District Attorney Andrea Harrington said.

The Berkshire District Attorney's Office has jurisdiction over the case and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit is conducting a criminal investigation into Estrella's death pursuant to standard protocols in officer-involved shootings.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will perform an autopsy on Sunday. The State Police Detective Unit is conducting a comprehensive and ongoing investigation with the support of Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services and Massachusetts State Police Firearms Identification Section.

The Pittsfield Police Department placed both of the responding officers on administrative leave pending the preliminary report of the department's internal Force Investigation Team pursuant to the order of Pittsfield Police Chief Michael Wynn and Pittsfield Police Department policies.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to contact the State Police Detective Unit at 413-499-1112.

Berkshire District Attorney Andrea Harrington's office serves all 32 cities and towns in Berkshire County. The office represents the Commonwealth in more than 7,500 criminal cases per year in Berkshire Superior Court, three district courts, three juvenile courts, Massachusetts Appeals Court, and Supreme Judicial Court. The office works closely with the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Berkshire District Attorney's Office, the Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force, and collaborates with local police departments across the county. A dedicated staff of more than 50 prioritizes public safety, empowering victims and witnesses through services and support, and building a safe community for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.