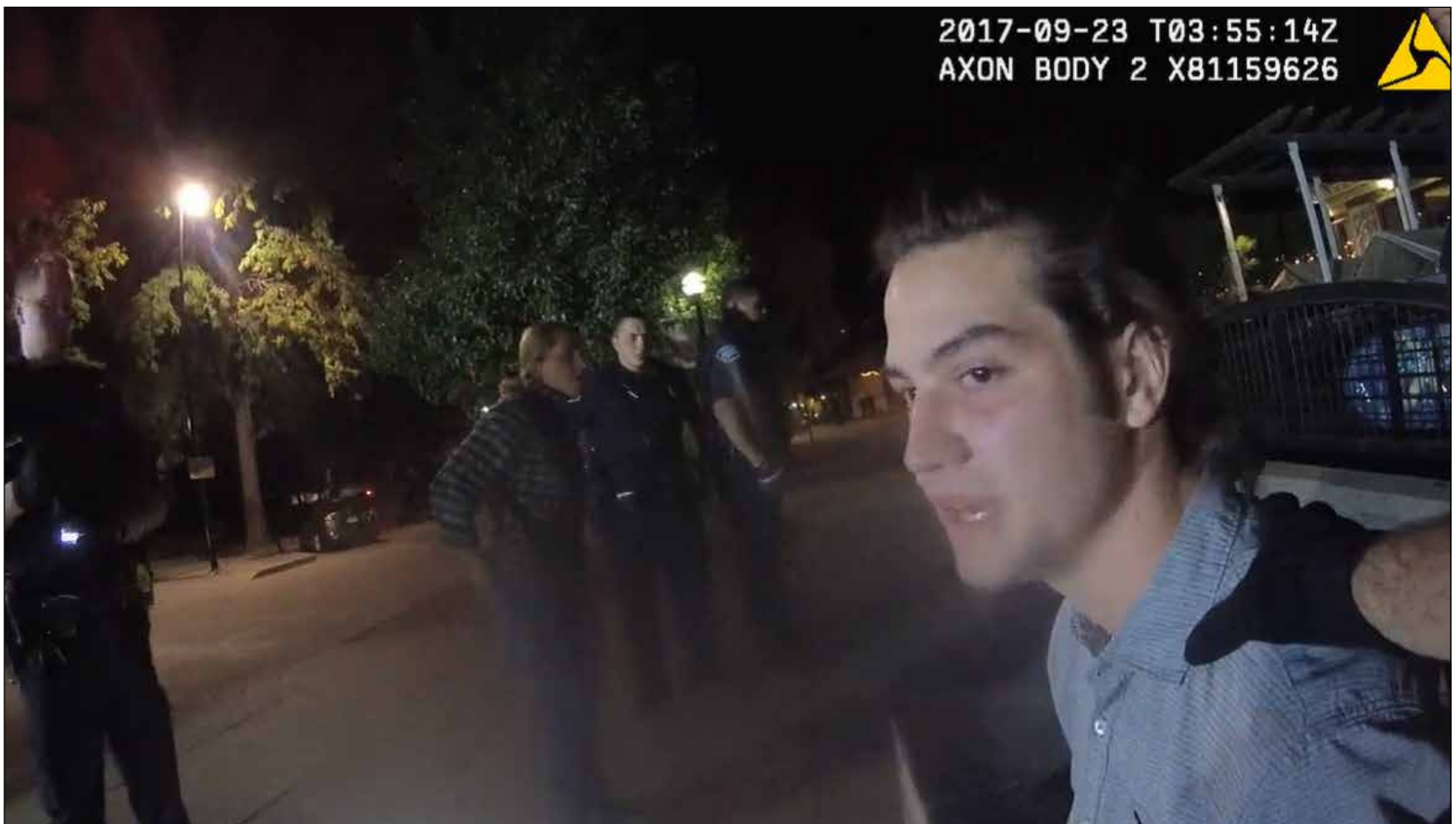


FAILURE TO TRAIN

The seven minutes that cost the city of Boulder \$3.41 million



BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police body camera video shows Boulder police officers sitting Seth Franco down on a bench next to a road after arresting him in a restaurant in 2017. All told, 16 officers responded that night to the welfare check on Franco – more than half of the personnel on duty.

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When four women and three men walked into a federal courtroom one Friday afternoon in October, they handed down one of largest jury awards against the city of Boulder in its history: \$3.41 million.

The circumstances in the case involving Boulder police were a bit unusual: There was no excessive force; no one

lost a life in the encounter; and, notably, the officers present were not on trial.

Instead, the jury had been asked to connect the dots between Seth Garrett Franco's 12 days in jail and the city itself. Did Boulder police officers violate Franco's constitutional rights by arresting him without probable cause? Was this situation typical in Boulder? Was the Police Department's training inad-

equated, and the city indifferent? And, finally, was the city's inaction responsible for Franco's unlawful arrest?

On each question, the jury said yes.

"We 100% believed the city of Boulder was liable," Douglas Idlett, one of the jurors, told Colorado Politics this month.

The city already indicated it will appeal its loss to the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

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FENTANYL

Calls to toughen penalties for fentanyl possession grow. **Page 2**

COAL FIRES

Thousands of Coloradans live near underground coal-mine fires. **Page 10**