

MEYER | THORP
Attorneys At Law, PLLC

101 East Augusta Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99207
Office (509) 533-1511 Fax (509) 343-3366

Stephen K. Meyer
Rondi J. Thorp
David E. Turplesmith
Jodi Thorp, of counsel

April 18, 2024

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RE: SPOKANE CITY POLICE SHOOTING OF ROBERT
BRADLEY

My name is Rondi Thorp, I represent, along with my team of Jodi Thorp and David Turplesmith, the Estate and Minor Children of Robert Bradley.

The family is sad and distraught to learn that once again the Spokane Police Department did not notify the family or its representatives of its intent to hold a press conference today. The prosecutor did not provide the children or their representatives any advance notice when they declined to charge the officers criminally. This has contributed to the children's suffering and not allowed them to prepare for when this case would be in the media.

After learning of the press conference Meyer Thorp Law sent a representative to appear, today the Spokane Police Department barred entry and would not allow attorneys of the children into the press conference to represent their interests. The children of Robert Bradley are young and vulnerable and yet the Spokane Police Department continues to cause harm to them in a callous manner.

What is clear in this case, is that Spokane Police arrived at the Bradley home and within three seconds of announcing their presence shot Robert Bradley nine times. Some of those shots were when he was on the ground facing away from police and some of these shots were in the back.

Robert Bradley had returned home earlier that day from a Labor Day camping trip with his kids and was unloading his own van on his own property. Mr. Bradley did not have to die and his kids did not need to be left without their dad and homeless. The police at the front of the house calmly approach the home without their weapons drawn to knock on the front door to serve a temporary civil order in a non-emergency. They are joking and talking to neighbors. The police at the back of the house, which include Officers Walker and Johnson, pull their guns, including an AR-15 and rush up and surprise Mr. Bradley who was looking in his van and not aware of their presence and who had a hearing

disability. Officers Johnson and Walker fire within three seconds of announcing their presence and before Mr. Bradley could ever understand who was there and what was happening to him. Officer Johnson reports that when he first shot Robert Bradley, he did not see a weapon in Robert Bradley's hands.

These were two of the very same officers that rushed up on David Novak and allegedly were trained to use time, distance, and cover as a policy for safety to not overreact to a situation. Officer Johnson has been involved in many police shootings, at least four reportedly since 2020. Most police officers go their entire career without ever pulling their gun.

As Mr. Bradley lay dying, he asked what happened? What did I do wrong? He was confused and knew he was dying. All he was doing was unloading his van from camping and minding his own business on his own property. Police cannot shoot people in their own yards simply because they have a gun with them. Spokane Police continue to shoot people at an alarming rate and the citizens should be scared for their friends and family.

After the record settlement we obtained in the Novak case of \$4 million dollars we believed that the Spokane Police would make changes. We were shocked that they again violated their policies in this case. We were further shocked when a Spokane Police Officer was convicted of raping two women at about the same time. Between the rapes and killings of innocent civilians, the Spokane Police Department is out of control and Spokane citizens should be outraged and demand accountability.

A jury will ultimately determine credibility, Officer Johnson says Robert Bradley pointed a gun at him. He never said that the night of the shooting, none of the other officers on scene saw that happen, and the surveillance video does not show that happening or even how it would be possible in the 1-3 seconds of notice that Mr. Bradley had to recognize what was happening. The first time we learn that Officer Johnson is going to say Robert Bradley pointed a weapon, is several weeks after the incident, when he drafts his statement, most likely with help from a criminal defense attorney, and does not provide his statement under oath. Every other police report is sworn under oath by an officer, why are these statements not sworn statements, why are they not dated?

The City needs to do the right thing for Robert Bradley's kids. A civil trial is different from a criminal trial, since we know these officers will not be held accountable criminally, all we can seek is money damages in the hopes that this will convince the City of Spokane and its police that they need to do better and they need to train these officers how to act and to protect and serve, not to just kill, rape and maim. We need to expect better from our elected official and our police.

RONDI THORP

**ATTORNEY FOR THE BRADLEY CHILDREN AND THE ESTATE OF
ROBERT BRADLEY**

MEYER THORP ATTORNEYS AT LAW