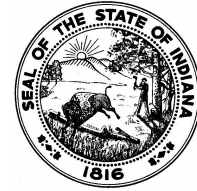




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Recordings show Officers fired in response to Christopher Fortin pulling a gun and raising it at the Officers in the July 25, 2023 officer involved shooting.

“Both Terre Haute Officers are cleared of any wrong-doing in the shooting of Christopher Fortin.” said Prosecutor Terry Modesitt regarding the July 25, 2023 officer involved shooting. “Mental illness, methamphetamine and guns – this combination of factors were all present when Mr. Fortin pulled a gun on Terre Haute Police Officers responding to an armed individual illegally inside a business. Unfortunately, these officers were called upon to respond with deadly force to protect themselves and one another.”

On the morning of July 25, 2023, Terre Haute Police Officers responded to a call of an armed man inside of the U.S. Lawns building. Initial officers arrived and attempted to make contact with the person inside the business. Because the intruder was armed with a handgun, additional officers were called to provide assistance. Additional efforts were made to communicate with the individual without success. This person was later identified as Christopher Fortin.

Surveillance video and body camera videos show how the officer involved shooting of Mr. Fortin unfolded. After a lengthy standoff, Fortin climbed out of a south window of the business and began quickly moving across the parking lot. At that same time, two Terre Haute Police Officers, Neese and Pounds, approached Fortin and repeatedly told him to show them his hands and to get on the ground. Fortin disregarded all commands and pulled a silver handgun from his right pocket. He then raised the gun toward the officers and raised his left hand toward the gun, moving into a shooter’s stance. At that time, both officers fired multiple shots at Mr. Fortin. Immediate medical assistance was then provided. Mr. Fortin was later pronounced dead at the hospital. “These shots fired in response to the deadly force being presented by Fortin are protected by Indiana law.” said Prosecutor Modesitt.

Detectives with the Indiana State Police conducted the investigation at the request of the Vigo County Prosecutor. The investigation determined one officer fired eleven rounds. The other officer fired three rounds. In response to the number of shots fired, Prosecutor Modesitt stated “Indiana’s self defense law allows deadly force to be used when the person ‘reasonably believes that [deadly] force is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury...or the commission of a forcible felony.’ In reviewing the actions of Mr. Fortin, he disregarded the commands to show his hands and to get down on the ground while raising the gun toward both officers. The law does not limit or try to define how much deadly force is appropriate. Whether three shots or eleven shots, the deadly force used by the officers in this situation is legally protected.”

Indiana Code 35-41-3-2(c) reads “A person is justified in using reasonable force against any other person to protect the person or a third person from what the person reasonably believes to be the imminent use of unlawful force. However, a person (1) is justified in using deadly force, and (2) does not have a duty to retreat, if the person reasonably believes that force is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury to the person or a third person or the commission of a forcible felony. No person, employer, or estate of a person in this state shall be placed in legal jeopardy of any kind whatsoever for protecting the person or a third person by reasonable means necessary.”