SHERIFF
ADAMS COUNTY
SHERIFF GENE R. CLAPS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Captain Eskam

FROM: Sergeant David Cho

DATE: April 24, 2026

SUBJ: Executive Summary IA2023-0010

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: WB Highway 36 at Federal Boulevard

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: April 5, 2023

EMPLOYEE(S) INVOLVED: Sergeant Wilfred Europe III

EMPLOYEE(S) SUPERVISOR:

BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2023, Sergeant Europe was involved in an officer-involved shooting at WB Highway 36 at Federal Blvd., Adams County, CO, where he responded to a pursuit in progress. Sergeant Europe pinned the suspect vehicle into a concrete barrier. One suspect, [redacted] fled on foot and Sergeant Europe pursued [redacted] on foot. Sergeant Europe heard someone yell, "He's got a gun" while [redacted] started turning towards Sergeant Europe. Sergeant Europe fired one round off from his duty weapon (handgun). [redacted] dropped to the ground, but did not sustain any gunshot wounds and was placed into custody by deputies.

ALLEGATION #1 201.2.52 USE OF FIREARMS

Sheriff's deputies shall not discharge their weapons while in the performance of their official duties except as provided by Sheriff's Office procedures. Employees shall not use or handle weapons in a careless or imprudent manner. Employees shall use weapons in accordance with law and established procedures.

ALLEGATION #2 201.2.53 USE OF FORCE

Sheriff's deputies shall not use more force in any situation than is reasonable under the circumstances. Deputies shall use force in accordance with established procedures.

ALLEGATION #3307.8.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any pursuit intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the deputies, the public or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to Office policies guiding such use. Deputies shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

(a) Blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to public safety, and when deputies reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risk involved, this technique should only be employed by deputies who have received training in such tactics and after giving consideration to the following:

1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, deputies or other members of the public.

2. All other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.

3. Employing the blocking maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk to officer safety.

4. The target vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.

5. At no time should civilian vehicles be used to deploy this technique.

(b) Only those deputies trained in the use of the TVI will be authorized to use this procedure and then should seek approval of a supervisor upon consideration of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for injury to deputies, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.

(c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the deputy's disposal have been exhausted. This tactic should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, one or more of the following factors should be present:

1. The suspect is an actual or suspected felon who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.

2. The suspect is driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized.

(d) As with all intervention techniques, pursuing deputies should obtain supervisor approval before attempting to box in a suspect vehicle during a pursuit. The use of such a technique must be carefully coordinated with all involved units, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to deputies, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.

(e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only when it is reasonably apparent that only the pursued vehicle will be affected by their use. Prior to the deployment of spike strips, the deputy shall notify pursuing units and the supervisor of the intent and location. Deputies should carefully consider the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risk to deputies, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. If the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials or a school bus transporting children,

deputies and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.
(f) Because roadblocks involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop, the intentional placement of roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is generally discouraged and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor, and only then under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, deputies or other members of the public.

INVESTIGATION:

On 04/05/2023 at approximately 04:10 am, Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] were called out as members of the Adams County Critical Incident Team (CIRT) and responded to the Adams County SO substation. Upon arrival, they were briefed on the case and assigned as the lead investigators. Detective [redacted] Detective [redacted] and other members of the CIRT team conducted interviews on all parties involved, reviewed body camera footage, and wrote reports regarding this incident. The incident is documented by Westminster case #2023-06397 and Adams County case#11CN23005364.

Once the investigation was complete, the case was presented to the Adams County Sheriff's Department Command Staff and the Adams County District Attorney's Office on 06/15/2023.

On March 9, 2026 a response from District Attorney [redacted] was provided regarding this incident. According to the letter, the investigation was thorough and complete. The letter from the district attorney states, "Given the totality of the circumstances and evidence, therefore, the prosecution cannot prove that Sergeant Europe was not justified in using reasonable force". Further the district attorney states, "applying the facts of this incident to the applicable law, the evidence does not support the filing of criminal charges against Sergeant Europe."

Although the district attorney's letter declined to charge Sergeant Europe for any criminal charges, it was recommended to complete a review of the actions of all parties involved to address any training or corrective action.

The remainder of this investigation regarding reviewing all reports, body camera footage, dispatch records and documents, and a review of all recorded interviews and transcripts.

EMPLOYEE WITNESS: Deputy [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed Deputy [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the transcription or recording.

Deputy [redacted] has been with the Adams County Sheriff's Office since 2019.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

Following the questionnaire, I read from, I asked Deputy [redacted] to tell me what happened from when the call was first aired for this incident. Deputy [redacted] told me that this call tied into a prior call and asked me if I wanted him to tell me about that call as well. I stated "sure."

Prior Incident:

- Deputy [redacted] said that the initial call was a gunshot wound to the face. Deputy [redacted] stated that he responded to that call with his district partner Deputy [redacted] located the victim. He then held the Crime Scene for Detectives and the Crime Scene Lab who processed it.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that while he was till on scene, Deputy [redacted] who was at the hospital with the victim, provided suspect information received from the victim.

- ADCOM (Adams County Communication), attached a picture of the suspect along with an apartment number for the suspect, which was in the same apartment complex where the original incident occurred.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that his patrol supervisor, Sergeant [redacted] told him that he, Deputy [redacted] Deputy [redacted] and Sergeant Europe would be going to attempt a knock and talk.

- [redacted] stated that information was also received that the suspect felony menaced the victim earlier in the day. They formulated a plan and eventually contacted a female in the apartment at the Villa's at 2054 W. 76th Avenue [redacted].

- [redacted] was being uncooperative and [redacted] agreed to do a written statement. [redacted] asked [redacted] where the car was that she had indicated that they had got into earlier.

- [redacted] Pointed the car out do deputies which was located in the parking lot.

- [redacted] went outside and cleared the car airing the information to dispatch. While outside with the car, [redacted] ran [redacted] name and discovered that she had a warrant.

- [redacted] went back upstairs to let Sergeant Europe know that [redacted] had a warrant and he had already cleared [redacted] so he knew about her warrant.

- [redacted] knew she had a warrant and didn't want to talk to Detectives about the original incident even though she was right there when the victim got shot.

- [redacted] arrested [redacted] on her warrant and escorted her to his patrol car to do paperwork in anticipation for transport to the Jail.

Incident:

- While preparing to do the Jail paperwork for [redacted] warrant, [redacted] stated that his car was facing East and he then saw a blue jeep traveling West bound past him.

- The driver in the Jeep was a Hispanic male, bald head, tattoo's, a blue bandana around his face, similar to several bandana's that he saw in the apartment.
- He shined his spotlight into the vehicle and saw there were multiple occupants.
- [redacted] asked [redacted] if that was him and she replied "I'm not sure."
- the driver gave him a certain look (mean mugging him).
- [redacted] stated that he matched the description of the suspect they were looking for.
- The vehicle passed his patrol unit and [redacted] turned his car around to get behind the Jeep which is still traveling West bound.
- The jeep then accelerates away from [redacted]
- [redacted] aired that a vehicle with a male matching the suspect description just passed him.
- [redacted] airs that he was going to pull the vehicle over.
- The vehicle exits the apartment complex and travels West bound on 76th Avenue increasing speeds.
- [redacted] activates his lights and siren and the vehicle failed to yield.
- [redacted] called out directions, North on Zuni, West bound on Meadowbrook.
- When they are halfway down Meadowbrook, [redacted] hears a gunshot go off.
- [redacted] aired that he thinks they are shooting at him.
- He stated that the vehicle made several turns that did not make since to him and eventually ends up back onto 76th Avenue.
- [redacted] stated that he was the only one in pursuit at that time. Deputy [redacted] was in the area and was able to Stop Stick the vehicle at 76th and Turner.
- The stop sticks deflated the front passenger side tire.
- The vehicle then went south on Pecos and eventually onto Highway 36.
- [redacted] advised dispatch that the vehicle's tire was sparking.
- He was riding the Westbound shoulder of the road possibly looking for a spot to foot bail.
- The suspect vehicle then changes lanes across the road into the far-left lane.
- Sergeant Europe then airs for [redacted] to back off once Europe catches up to him since [redacted] had a custody in his vehicle.

- [redacted] then allows Sergeant Europe to take over the pursuit and Sergeant Europe then decided to immobilize the vehicle against the center median.
- [redacted] stated that Sergeant Europe was able to mobilize the vehicle in the number one lane against the center median.
- [redacted] parks his patrol vehicle on the right shoulder of the highway about 150 feet away.
- He stated that at that time it was only Deputy [redacted] and Sergeant Europe.
- [redacted] then deployed his riffle and went to the passenger's side of Deputy [redacted] patrol car to assist on the high risk stop.
- [redacted] saw a male exit the car and run south getting into the eastbound lanes of highway 36.
- [redacted] held her attention on the suspect vehicle and sergeant Europe went after the suspect.
- [redacted] ran to help Sergeant Europe and jumped the wall to assist Europe and he heard someone yell, "he's got a gun."
- [redacted] echo's "gun," and he then hears a single gunshot and saw the suspect drop.
- [redacted] stated that he didn't know who shot at that time.
- [redacted] said that he saw that the suspect had something in his left hand.
- He heard screaming from behind him from the suspect car following the shot.
- [redacted] then assisted taking the suspect into custody.
- Deputy [redacted] then cuffed the suspect and [redacted] provided cover.
- [redacted] assessed the suspect for injuries and then decided to move the suspect off of the roadway to the right shoulder of East bound highway 36 and over another retaining wall and eventually behind a Westminster Police car for cover.
- [redacted] assessed the suspect again for injuries and the suspect was uncooperative stating "fuck you."
- No injuries were seen by deputies

Follow up questions from investigators:

- When asked about what [redacted] saw when he heard the shot come from the vehicle during the pursuit, [redacted] stated that he didn't see a weapon but during the pursuit things were being thrown from the suspect car.

- [redacted] remembered what he thought was a drill being thrown at his car during the pursuit but stated he also saw jackets and similar items when they started throwing items from the car [redacted] stated that it started when they turned off of Zuni onto Meadowbrook.
- He stated that it was immediately after he heard the shot.
- [redacted] stated that he never saw any glass break when he heard the shot.
- When asked about what [redacted] saw in the suspects left hand at the conclusion of the pursuit [redacted] said he saw something dark in his left hand.
- He stated he saw the item in his hand after someone yelled "he's got a gun."
- [redacted] was asked if he ever saw the suspect reach for anything or put his hands in his pockets and [redacted] responded "no."
- He described the suspect's clothing as wearing a black hoodie, prescription glasses and a baseball cap.
- [redacted] stated that he did the initial pat down on the suspect and doesn't know what was found on him when he was formally searched.
- [redacted] stated that he never found out what was in the suspects hands.
- [redacted] stated that he did have a custody in his vehicle during the pursuit and after the pursuit while they took the suspects into custody.
- When asked if his custody made any statements or spontaneous utterances he stated that she did not.
- [redacted] said that after the incident another Deputy removed his custody from his vehicle and transported her to jail.
- After the pursuit and when he parked his car and started running to [redacted] car [redacted] stated that he heard yelling from the suspect vehicle and he heard Deputy [redacted] telling the suspects "show me your hands."
- [redacted] stated that he did hear Sergeant Europe yell "he's running.:"
- He said that he Deputy [redacted] and Sergeant Europe were the one's who approached the suspect.
- [redacted] said that Deputy [redacted] stayed at her patrol car shouting commands at the suspect vehicle.
- [redacted] stated that he did not fire any rounds from his riffle and never deployed his handgun.

- [redacted] stated that following this incident a round count was done on his handgun but his riffle which was still loaded was secured in his vehicle which was towed and sealed with crime scene tape.

Additional Follow Up Questions:

- When asked why he didn't shoot, [redacted] stated that he heard someone say "he's got a gun as he was going over the center median and he heard a shot. [redacted] stated that he never saw a threat so he didn't shoot.
- When asked if there is anything he wanted to add [redacted] stated that the highway does have lighting but it was dim where this occurred.
- [redacted] also pointed out that this happened almost parallel where the federal onramp is on Highway 36.
- [redacted] confirmed that he did have his overhead lights on during this incident.

EMPLOYEE WITNESS: Deputy [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed Deputy [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Deputy [redacted] has been with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 7. 5 years.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

Following the questionnaire, I asked Deputy [redacted] to tell me what happened from when the call was first aired for this incident. Deputy [redacted] told me the following:

- Deputy [redacted] heard Deputy [redacted] air that a jeep pulled up in the area and that the driver of the Jeep fit the description of the suspect they were looking for reference an earlier shooting.
- She heard Deputy [redacted] air that he was attempting to pull the Jeep over.
- The suspect vehicle eluded [redacted] and went into a residential area off of Weschester and Zuni St.
- Deputy [redacted] stated that [redacted] aired that a shot had been fired by someone in the Jeep.
- Deputy [redacted] stated that she was at 84th avenue and Zuni at that time.
- She was waiting to see if the suspect came north so she could assist with stop sticks.
- [redacted] aired that the suspects ended up circling around the neighborhood and then went south.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that she went down Pecos at Elmwood she saw the Jeep turn south onto Pecos and she saw [redacted] Pursing the vehicle.

- At that point Sergeant Europe got in front of her and they went onto West bound Highway 36 and she saw the suspects throwing things out of the vehicle.

- Deputy [redacted] said that she saw the suspects throwing clothing out of the vehicle on the Highway.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that she ended up getting into the HOA lane and her and Sergeant Europe were paralleling each other.

- She saw the Jeep in the left shoulder hugging the concrete barrier.

- As the pursuit got up to Federal Boulevard, Sergeant Europe aired for Deputy [redacted] to back off and he then Pinned the Jeep into the concrete barrier to stop the vehicle.

- Deputy [redacted] said that she got out of her car and pointed her pistol at the suspect vehicle.

- She said a male came out of the vehicle through one of he windows and was wearing a blue hoodie and jeans.

- She stated that the male came out of one of the driver's side windows onto the concreate barrier and then rolled off and was on his knees and had his hands up, with his elbows on the concreate barrier.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that she could see the male talking to someone in the vehicle.

- They started giving him commands telling the male to put his hands up and they were under arrest.

- The male in the blue hoodie staggered up to his feet, he had his hands up and appeared to be unsteady.

- The male staggered back a few feet but was facing Deputy [redacted] The male took a few more steps backward and turned around. At that point he was in the number 1 lane of Eastbound Highway 36.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that the male then started running and she saw a civilian car and she was getting ready to deploy her dog.

- Sergeant Europe and the two deputies went after the suspect. Deputy [redacted] stated that she heard Sergeant Europe yell "he's got a gun, he's got a gun." She then heard a pop.

- Deputy [redacted] clarified that the reason that she didn't deploy the dog was because of the civilian car, and her dog didn't have target lock.

- I asked her who fired the round and she stated "I believe it was Sergeant Europe."

- I asked her how she knew it was Sergeant Europe and she stated that visually she saw Sergeant Europe's stance that he had his gun out and was pointing it down at the suspect and she thought she heard the pop. She clarified that she did not see him shoot.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that the other male in the vehicle started yelling so she then directed her attention back at the vehicle.

- I asked her if she had her gun out when she heard the pop and she told that she did not, because she had ahold of her.

- She confirmed that she did have lethal cover at that time.

- Deputy [redacted] was then asked if the suspect that had run that Sergeant Europe was with, if she saw his movements before or after the shot was fired.

- She then said she saw him turn his back towards her and started to run after he lowered his hands.

- She stated that she heard someone yell that he had a gun twice and she stated that she was one hundred percent sure it was Sergeant Europe who yelled that.

- Deputy [redacted] stated after the subject fell to the ground she heard other Officers telling him to put his hands where I can see them and she heard someone yell put your hands out.

- Deputy [redacted] explained that after she redirected her attention to the car she was yelling for the occupants of the car that they were under arrest and that she would send the dog and he would bite.

- She then identified the other Deputies that assisted her with the high risk stop as Sertgeant [redacted] Deputy [redacted] and other Deputies as they showed up.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that she never fired her weapon.

- When asked why she didn't fire her weapon Deputy [redacted] stated she wasn't in a position to shoot.

- Deputy [redacted] stated that it was cold and a bit windy during the inciedent and the lighting was dark even with the streetlights it was dim lighting.

- I then requested that deputy [redacted] draw a diagram of where all of the cars were situated and she then did so. This diagram was later booed into the Westminster Police Property/Evidence room.

- Deputy [redacted] was asked if she saw the suspect when he fell and she stated that she did see him fall but couldn't see his hands so she didn't know if he had something in his hands.

EMPLOYEE WITNESS: Deputy [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed Deputy [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the 201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Deputy [redacted] has been with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 10 years.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in her report:

> [redacted] has been a sworn deputy with ACSO for 10 years. He was assigned to patrol graveyard shift on 04-04-23 into 04-05-23. He was in a fully marked ACSO uniform and was driving a fully marked ACSO vehicle. [redacted] BWC was activated during this incident. The original call was to 2090 W. 76th Ave on a report of a female shot in the face. [redacted] assisted with the perimeter, neighborhood canvass and securing the crime scene with tape. The victim was transported to the hospital and [redacted] cleared the scene. Approximately 30-40 minutes after the original call [redacted] was called back to assist on contact with a possible suspect at a different apartment. Deputies contacted [redacted] who was identified as being present when the shooting occurred. The suspect was not located and [redacted] cleared the scene.
>
> A Short time later [redacted] heard Deputy [redacted] air that a vehicle fled from him and the driver matched the suspect description. The vehicle was a Jeep, but [redacted] was unsure of the color. [redacted] attempted to catch up to [redacted] who was in pursuit of the Jeep. [redacted] heard [redacted] air there was a gunshot fired from the vehicle in the pursuit. [redacted] had the female, [redacted] in custody in his patrol car during the pursuit. [redacted] did not know the location where the gunshot was fired. Deputy [redacted] and Sgt. Europe caught up to the pursuit, which ended on US36 WB just west of Federal. Sgt. Europe pinned the suspect vehicle against the center median barrier. [redacted] approached from the shoulder and deployed his rifle. [redacted] took a position behind [redacted] who was behind another patrol vehicle.
>
> [redacted] heard "stop, police, don't move, you're under arrest." He yelled "police don't move or ill shoot." His attention shifted to a male standing in the EB lanes over the concrete barrier. The male had his back towards deputies and his hands in his waistband or hoody pocket. The male used his head to look back and appeared to be concealing something as he started running away. [redacted] said Sgt. Europe closed in on the male and he removed his hands with a black object in his left hand. [redacted] yelled "he's got a gun" and then heard one gunshot before the male fell to the ground. [redacted] described the black object as "long" and yelled he had a gun due to the original call being that the suspect was armed and shots were fired during the pursuit. [redacted] stated he didn't see a gun, but the male's movements, actions and body bladed away made him believe the object may have been a gun. The male was taken into custody and a cell phone was located on the ground near the male. [redacted] did not fire his weapon and did not see who fired the shot he heard. [redacted] later learned it was Sgt. Europe who fired his duty weapon.

EMPLOYEE WITNESS: Deputy [redacted]

Detective [redacted] with the Westminster Police Department interviewed Deputy [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Deputy [redacted] has been with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 6.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

> Deputy [redacted] was initially called out to the area regarding a shots fired call at this apartment complex. Deputy [redacted] assisted with the arrest of [redacted] related to warrants she had. As Deputy [redacted] was walking back to his patrol car he observed Deputy [redacted] attempting to catch up to a Jeep that was leaving the area. Deputy [redacted] aired over the radio that the driver of this Jeep could have been one of the suspects from the shooting call. Deputy [redacted] stated that a picture of the suspect, "[redacted] had been added.
>
> Deputy [redacted] stated that a pursuit was engaged in with the Jeep and he ended up deploying stop sticks at 76th Ave and Pecos St. Deputy [redacted] attempted to catch up to the suspect vehicle but the pursuit was ended when the suspect vehicle was pushed into the median by another Deputy.
>
> Deputy [redacted] arrived on scene after the suspect was stopped. He observed a male on the eastbound side of the barrier that had fled from the suspect vehicle. The suspect was given commands to come back across the median. The male fled and Deputy [redacted] observed the male flee and several deputies give chase. Deputy [redacted] turned his attention toward the vehicle to deal with any remaining occupants. Deputy [redacted] than heard someone yell that the suspect had a gun and then heard a gunshot. Deputy [redacted] did not know at the time who had fired the weapon. He later learned the shot was fired by an Adams County Sergeant.
>
> Deputy [redacted] stated that during the pursuit he did not hear a gunshot. He stated that Deputy [redacted] aired over the radio that at least one round was fired from the suspect vehicle, during the pursuit.
>
> Deputy [redacted] stated that as he arrived on the scene when the pursuit was ended, he initially turned his attention to the male that was on the opposite side of the jersey barrier. During that time, he did not see this male to be in possession of a weapon. However, the male would not show his hands. Deputy [redacted] did see some type of shiny object in the suspect's left hand, but could not tell what the object was. Deputy [redacted] estimated his distance from the suspect when he observed the "Shiny object" at approximately 20-25 yards.

OTHER WITNESS: [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

> Det. [redacted] and I interviewed [redacted]. [redacted] was in the front passenger seat of the vehicle that had been involved in the pursuit leading up to the officer involved shooting. [redacted] told us that she was in the passenger seat, her boyfriend [redacted]" was driving, and an individual that she only knows as "[redacted] was in the back seat. She said the vehicle belonged to her. She said that she and [redacted] had been hanging out all day and at some point

"[redacted] called [redacted] to pick him up. She was unsure of where they picked up "[redacted] She advised that "[redacted] and [redacted] knew each other from being cell mates in prison. She said they were driving around and saw a large police response to some apartments. They decided to "check out" what was going on. [redacted] said that [redacted] was driving slowly past a deputy's car and the deputy shined a light on them. She said [redacted] got scared because all of the occupants of the vehicle were on parole and [redacted] and "[redacted] both had warrants. She said [redacted] fled from the deputy and was driving erratically. She said "[redacted] repeatedly told [redacted] to "go". She said they eventually stopped on the highway and she dragged form the vehicle. She said she may have lost consciousness and does not recall hearing any commands or any gunshot.

OTHER WITNESS: [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

We then interviewed [redacted] He said that he was driving and [redacted] was in the front passenger seat. He refused to give any information on who was in the back seat. He claimed that no one in it car had a gun and that no one shot, but he did not give any more details. [redacted] was apprehensive and elusive in his answers. He said that after the pursuit the police dragged him over [redacted] who was in the passenger seat. He did not recall any gunshot.

OTHER WITNESS: [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

[redacted] was the next interviewed. He was read his Miranda Rights and was not willing to speak with us. He did make a spontaneous statement to the effect of "the cops shot at me for no reason".

OTHER WITNESS: [redacted]

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed [redacted] in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

[redacted] stated that this incident stemmed from a shooting that occurred at her apartment complex. [redacted] was arrested on outstanding warrants and placed into the back of a patrol vehicle. The suspect in

this initial shooting was an associate of Jill's named "[redacted] As she was in the back seat a vehicle passed by them and Deputy [redacted] asked [redacted] if the driver was "[redacted] [redacted] stated she told Deputy [redacted] that she could not see the drier and she did not recognize the Jeep. She stated Deputy [redacted] must have recognized the driver because he began pursuing the vehicle with her in the back of the patrol vehicle. She did not have a good view of the suspect vehicle or any of the occupants after the pursuit ended. [redacted] did hear Deputies giving commands such as "Get down on the ground."

During the pursuit, [redacted] did not hear any gunshots coming from the suspect vehicle. [redacted] did hear one gunshot after the pursuit ended, but believed it came from the police. [redacted] did not observe any items thrown from the suspect vehicle during the pursuit.

SUBJECT: Sergeant Wilfred Europe

Detective [redacted] and Detective [redacted] with the [redacted] interviewed Sergeant Wilfred Europe in the Detective interview room at the Adams County Sub Station, 4201 E 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. This interview was recorded, and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview, please see the recording.

Sergeant Europe has been with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 15 years.

Detective [redacted] stated the following in his report:

- At approximately 23:50 hours they were dispatched to the Villa's for a gunshot wound where a female was shot in the face. Sergeant Europe stated he doesn't remember the address but it was building [redacted].
- The female was then arrested on a warrant that she had, and Deputy [redacted] was going to transport her to the jail.
- Sergeant Europe then went to his patrol car and was with Deputy [redacted] Deputy [redacted] was putting his equipment away when a blue SUV drove by them. Sergeant Europe said he didn't think anything about that, but then Deputy [redacted] went speeding out of the parking lot and went west on 76th instead of East to the highway which would've taken him to the jail.
- Sergeant Europe said within minutes Deputy [redacted] aired that he was in pursuit of the vehicle and a male in the vehicle, the suspect, who was wearing all black with tattoos on his face.
- Sergeant Europe explained that minutes later [redacted] aired that he heard shots and that the suspects were firing at his vehicle.
- Sergeant Europe was already in his car trying to get to the area when he heard [redacted] air that.
- The pursuit ended up going southbound on Pecos, getting onto I-76 westbound (I later clarified with Sergeant Europe that the pursuit went onto Highway 36 not I-76).

- Sergeant Europe stated that when he caught up he called Deputy [redacted] off because he knew that he had a prisoner in the back of his car.

- Sergeant Europe stated that he had approved a TVI but he then took that back as he knew that there were not enough cars to do that since he had called [redacted] off. He also thought that he didn't want anyone head on with the car because they were chasing someone who shot a female and had shot at Officers, he didn't want anyone taking rounds through their windshield.

- Based on having two separate situations of shots fired, Sergeant Europe made the decision and aired over the radio that he was going to put the car into the wall. Sergeant Europe explained that he didn't want to tell one of his Deputies to put themselves in danger by doing that so he decided that he would do it.

- Another Deputy successfully deployed stop sticks and the suspect car had one of its front tires blown out. The suspect car was in the center breakdown lane and was not traveling at high speed.

- Sergeant Europe said that he didn't ram the car but pulled up on the right side of the suspect car and forced the car into the wall to prevent it from going forward. He couldn't recall the speeds but stated they were not high speeds when he put the car into the wall.

- When he put the car into the wall he noticed there were multiple people in the car. There was a female in the front passenger's seat, a middle-aged male come up into view from the back seat grabbing at the female, and another male wearing black in either the front or back seat and climbing out of the car.

- Sergeant Europe was going to get out of the passenger's door of his vehicle but realized he had clearance to get out of his driver's door.

- He then moved to the front of his car and started challenging the car when he saw the male wearing all black on the other side of the Jersey barrier and the male had a cell phone in his right hand and his left hand was up. He was ordering the male to put his hands up and don't move. He challenged the car saying "put your hands up, don't move."

- Sergeant Europe realized he was in a bad position for crossfire as the other cars had set up for a high risk stop. He looked at the other Deputy's and the male saw the Deputies look at his and the male then turned and ran across the eastbound lanes.

- Sergeant Europe then decided to jump the Jersey barrier and go after the male. There was no traffic coming at the time eastbound.

- Sergeant Europe said that he had his gun out still and was challenging the male as he was chasing, he then heard his K9 Officer yell, "he's got a gun, he's got a gun."

- The male slowed, but it wasn't a complete stop but in the process of stopping to face him.

- Sergeant Europe said that he could no longer see his hands and he felt the male was making a motion backwards to face him and Sergeant Europe fired a shot and the male dropped almost simultaneously.

- Sergeant Europe thought he had hit the male in the back because of the way he fell.

- Several Officers were moving up, challenging the suspect with him. Sergeant Europe then ordered them to take the male into custody, they then cuffed the male, and found the male to be uninjured.

- Sergeant Europe's decision to place the suspect vehicle into the wall was based on the information that he had received that its occupants were involved in the earlier shooting and had fired on one of his Deputies.

- Sergeant Europe confirmed as the suspect was running away from him he could see his hands moving back and forth but when he heard, he's got a gun, the male moved his hands to the front and he could no longer see them and it appeared to him male had his hands at his waistband area. Sergeant Europe said that it was then he saw the male delay his body movement and out of fear for his safety and that of his Deputies as well he fired a shot.

- Sergeant Europe stated that he has been assigned on this shift for six months.

- Sergeant Europe was asked, if another deputy says "he's got a gun, he's got a gun," what goes through your mind. Sergeant Europe replied "that they are looking at it."

- Sergeant Europe did confirm that he did have other less lethal tools on his belt and when asked why he didn't use them he stated "per policy, you only use less lethal when you have lethal cover. You don't deploy less lethal against a lethal threat." "If someone is about to shoot me with a gun, I'm not going to shoot them with a taser or less lethal, it would be inappropriate." "being that at the time I was the only one pursuing him, lethal option was my only option against a lethal threat.."

- When Sergeant Europe was asked about what commands he was giving to the suspect he stated that he told him to put his hands up and don't move and stop while he was running.

- He described a Tactical vehicle intervention (TVI), as the same thing as a Pit maneuver.

- While drawing the diagram Sergeant Europe described that when the suspect was running from him he started slowing like he was coming to a stop. He stated he could no longer see the suspects hands and with the disappearing of the hands and a movement backwards and at that point he fired his shot.

- I asked him what the lighting was like and he stated that there were streetlights and lights from the vehicle but it was dark.

- I asked if he ever remembered warning the suspect that he was going to shoot and Sergeant Europe stated "I don't know."

- I asked him after firing the first round, why did you stop. Sergeant Europe stated "he collapsed to the ground and I thought that I shot him in the back. He collapsed and there was no more movement. We were challenging him and I didn't see anything in his hands. He was screaming something, I don't recall what he was yelling, I had my guys cuff him and I continued to cover down until he was cuffed."

- I asked Sergeant Europe if he remembered what the backdrop was like when he fired and he stated there was a Jersey barrier a dirt lot and then a wall. I asked how big the wall was and he stated eight to ten feet.

- Detective [redacted] asked Sergeant Europe how much time passed from when he jumped the barrier to when the suspect was taken into custody and he said 20 to 30 seconds.

- Detective [redacted] asked him from the time that he heard "he's got a gun, he's got a gun to the time when the suspect changed his cadence in his steps and started to blade his shoulders to you, what was the time between those two events. Sergeant Europe stated maybe two seconds, almost immediately.

- Detective [redacted] then said "if you didn't issue a command, would you have time to." Sergeant Europe said It would've been during the foot pursuit.

End of Interviews