



Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USPP FOP STATEMENT RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF THE BODY WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE FROM THE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING ON MARCH 18, 2023.

NOTE: U.S. Park Police (USPP) is an independent federal law enforcement agency governed by its own policies and procedures. While we value our partnering agencies, in some cases, we have differing policies. In particular, the USPP has different policies from those of the D.C Metropolitan Police Department (DC MPD).

The Executive Board of the United States Park Police Fraternal Order of Police (USPP FOP) today issued the following statement:

-On the date in question, Officers confirmed the vehicle was stolen, the ignition was punched, and Martin appeared to be sleeping in the driver's seat.

-Officer #2 gained entry into the vehicle attempting to detain Martin. Martin actively resisted the attempt and fought Officer #2. Officer #1 entered the vehicle in a clear attempt to assist Officer #2 in placing Martin in custody.

-Martin actively fought both officers and was able to put the vehicle in gear. Martin then accelerated the vehicle aggressively, dragging Officer #2 causing the possibility of inflicting serious bodily injury or death to Officer #2. Officer #2 eventually fell free from the vehicle, striking his head on the pavement as Martin fled with Officer #1 trapped inside the vehicle.

-Officer #1 continued to give loud verbal commands advising Martin to pull over. Martin continued to flee at a high rate of speed with no regard for life or property. Officer #1 was at risk of immediate death due to Martin's actions.

-After Officer #1 pleaded with Martin to stop and let him go, the vehicle continued to accelerate at uncontrollable speeds. Officer #1 had no choice and discharged his firearm, striking Martin and the vehicle crashed into a nearby home. A handgun was recovered inside the vehicle within close proximity to where Martin was seated.

-Both officers, despite being injured, attempted to relinquish emergency first aid to save Martin's life.

-USPP policies, as the USPP has stated publicly, were followed in this case. Well-established case law from the courts, as taught at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, as well as in-service training, demonstrate that Officer #1 and #2 followed all USPP policies and laws in this case.

Any death is tragic; we feel for the family. However, Martin committed felonious acts by dragging a police officer attempting to cause serious bodily injury or death. Martin then kidnapped and trapped an officer inside the vehicle as he sped away at uncontrollable speeds, failing to adhere to verbal commands and pleas to stop the vehicle. Martin was a clear threat to Officer #1 as well as to the public. Our officers' actions are justified based on well-established case law, USPP policies, and training. This is a tragic incident that could have ended much differently, had Martin just complied. We fully support a fair and unbiased investigation into these events.