



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
Twenty-Sixth Prosecutorial District
MECKLENBURG COUNTY

SPENCER B. MERRIWEATHER III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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May 12, 2026

Special Agent in Charge Brandon Blackman
North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
5994 Caldwell Park Dr.
Harrisburg, North Carolina 28075

Re: Joseph Ajani Andrade Death Investigation

Dear SAC Blackman:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-61, my office has reviewed the investigation surrounding the shooting death of Joseph Ajani Andrade on October 23, 2025. The case was investigated under case number 2025-03716. The documentation considered for the purposes of this review was provided by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation in February 2025. The purpose of this review was to examine whether the actions of CMPD Officers Joseph Pharr and Reilly Delk were unlawful in the incident leading to the death of Joseph Andrade.

This officer-involved shooting occurred near the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street in Charlotte, North Carolina and was the last in a series of shootings involving the decedent on October 23, 2025. At approximately 4:07 p.m., 911 operators began receiving calls in reference to three attempted carjackings committed by the decedent in the area of North Hoskins Street. In the first of those attempted carjackings, the intended victim was able to escape. In the ensuing carjacking attempts, the decedent shot and killed the drivers without taking their vehicles. Afterward, the decedent unsuccessfully attempted a home invasion before successfully completing a second home invasion attempt on Cloudman Drive.

During this second home invasion, the decedent kidnapped a resident of the home and forced her to drive him from the area at gunpoint in her red GMC Terrain. Near the Pleasant Grove Road area of Charlotte, the decedent forced the resident into the passenger seat and began driving. Officers subsequently located and followed the red GMC Terrain until it exited South I-77 westbound onto Morehead Street. The decedent then turned right onto Freedom Drive and proceeded westbound until performing a U-turn just before Berryhill Road. As the decedent performed the U-turn, he fired at pursuing CMPD officers from the driver's seat. The decedent then proceeded eastbound on Freedom Drive until encountering traffic at the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street. The decedent then exited the GMC Terrain and fired his gun at Officer Pharr. [\[1\]](#). Officer Pharr returned fire through his windshield, then chased the

decedent, still armed with a gun, as he fled on foot eastbound on Morehead Street. Officer Delk, who was farther behind in the pursuit, intercepted the decedent on Morehead Street as the decedent fled from Officer Pharr. During his flight, the decedent pointed his firearm at Officer Delk, [2] [3] [4] [5], and Officer Delk fired his rifle at the decedent. Almost simultaneously, Officer Pharr fired his handgun at the decedent. As the decedent fell, his Glock 43X 9x19 handgun, now empty, dropped from his hand and slid under a nearby CMPD vehicle where it was later collected by investigators. [6].

Investigators recovered a Blazer 9mm Luger discharged cartridge case in the median of Freedom Drive where the decedent fired at officers as he performed the U-turn. Investigators recovered another Blazer 9mm Luger discharged cartridge case from the driver's seat of the GMC Terrain. Investigators recovered an additional three Blazer 9mm Luger discharged cartridge cases from the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street where the decedent fired at Officer Pharr as the decedent exited the GMC Terrain. Investigators recovered seven WIN 9mm Luger discharged cartridge cases fired by Officer Pharr from inside Officer Pharr's vehicle and an additional seven WIN 9mm Luger cases fired by Officer Pharr from the roadway on Morehead Street where the decedent was intercepted and shot by Officers Delk and Pharr. In that same location, investigators recovered 11 discharged LC 24 rifle rounds fired by Officer Delk.

An autopsy conducted on the decedent determined he suffered multiple gunshot wounds and a number of additional graze wounds. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds of the torso and extremities.

As you know, this letter specifically does not address issues relating to tactics, or whether officers followed correct police procedures or Department Directives.

I personally responded to the scene of this incident and monitored the investigation along with another senior Assistant District Attorney (ADA). I reviewed the investigative file as provided by the SBI. Finally, consistent with the District Attorney's Office Officer-Involved Shooting Protocol, this case was presented to the District Attorney's Officer-Involved Shooting Review Team, which is comprised of the office's most experienced prosecutors.

A. The role of the District Attorney under North Carolina law

The District Attorney (DA) for the 26th Prosecutorial District is a state official and, as such, does not answer to town or county governments within the prosecutorial district. The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement official of the 26th Judicial District, the boundaries of which are the same as the County of Mecklenburg. The District Attorney has no administrative authority or control over the personnel of CMPD or other police agencies within the jurisdiction. That authority and control resides with each town or county government.

Pursuant to North Carolina statute, one of the District Attorney's obligations is to advise law enforcement agencies within the prosecutorial district. The DA does not arrest people or charge people with crimes. When the police charge a person with a crime, the DA decides whether or not to prosecute the charged crime. Generally, the DA does not review police decisions not to charge an individual with a crime. However, in officer-involved shooting cases, the DA reviews the complete investigative file of the investigating agency. The DA then decides

whether he agrees or disagrees with the charging decision made by the investigating agency. If the DA concludes that uncharged conduct should be prosecuted, the case will be submitted to a Grand Jury.

If no criminal charges are filed, that does not mean the District Attorney's Office believes the matter was in all respects handled appropriately from an administrative or tactical viewpoint. It is simply a determination that there is not a reasonable likelihood of proving criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt unanimously to a jury. This is the limit of the DA's statutory authority in these matters. The fact that a shooting may be controversial does not mean that criminal prosecution is warranted. Even if the District Attorney believes a shooting was avoidable or an officer did not follow expected procedures or norms, this does not necessarily amount to a violation of criminal law. In these circumstances, remedies (if any are appropriate) may be pursued by administrative or civil means. The District Attorney has no administrative or civil authority in these matters. Those remedies are primarily in the purview of city and county governments, police departments, and private civil attorneys.

B. Legal standards

The law recognizes an inherent right to use deadly force to protect oneself or others from death or great bodily harm. This core legal principle is referred to as the right to "self-defense." A police officer does not lose the right to self-defense by virtue of becoming a police officer. Officers are entitled to the same protections of the law as every other individual. An imminent threat to the life of a police officer or others entitles the officer to respond in such a way as to stop that threat.

Under North Carolina law, the burden of proof is on the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant did not act in defense of himself or others. N.C.G.S. §14-51.3 provides that a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat in any place he or she has the lawful right to be if he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.

C. Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer

The same legal standards apply to law enforcement officers and private citizens alike. However, officers fulfilling their sworn duty to enforce the laws of this State are often placed in situations in which they are required to confront rather than avoid potentially dangerous people and situations.

The United States Supreme Court stated, "[t]he 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight." Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989). The Court further explained that "[t]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." Id. at 396–97. Moreover, the analysis "requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case," including "whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others," as well as "the severity of the crime at issue" and whether the suspect "is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." Id. at 396. The

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has consistently held that “an officer does not have to wait until a gun is pointed at the officer before the officer is entitled to take action.” Anderson v. Russell, 247 F.3d 125, 131 (2001).

A situation in which an officer is confronting an armed person with uncertain motives is, by definition, dangerous, and such a circumstance will almost always be tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. In these circumstances, we are not deciding whether the officer’s belief in the need to use deadly force was correct but only whether his belief in the necessity of such force was reasonable.

In conducting a legal analysis, this office must take its guidance from the law, and a decision must not be based upon public sentiment or outcry. The obligation of a District Attorney is clear; he must simply apply the law to the known facts.

What the law demands is an evaluation of the reasonableness of the officer’s decision at the moment he fired the shot. The Supreme Court of the United States has provided guidance on what is objectively reasonable and how such an analysis should be conducted. That guidance indicates that it is inappropriate to employ “the 20/20 vision of hindsight,” and an analysis must make “allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments.” See Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. at 396. The Court suggests that when reviewing use of force cases, caution should be used to avoid analysis “more reflective of the ‘peace of a judge’s chambers’ than of a dangerous and threatening situation on the street.” Elliot v. Leavitt, 99 F.3d. 640, 643 (4th Cir. 1996).

D. The officer-involved shooting of Joseph Ajani Andrade

Kidnapping Victim¹

Investigators interviewed the victim of the kidnapping on October 23, 2025, at approximately 8:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center located at 601 East Trade Street. This witness stated that she was in her home when her son informed her and her husband that a male had just broken into the house. The witness stated that the decedent, who was pointing a firearm at her and her family, told her to give him the keys to her car. The decedent then demanded she come with him and led her to the car with the gun held to her back.

The witness recalled that the decedent had her get into the driver’s seat of the GMC Terrain while he got into the back seat. The decedent told her she had five seconds to move the car, or he was going to shoot her. The decedent told her they were going to Florida. The witness recounted that as they neared Pleasant Grove Road, the decedent forced her into the front passenger seat while he got into the driver’s seat.

The witness recounted that the decedent told her he had been shot at earlier. The witness stated that she asked the decedent if he was planning to kill her, and he told her that he could not let her go because she had him on camera, referring to the surveillance camera at her home. She

¹ Witnesses who did not identify themselves publicly in media interviews or otherwise are not identified by name in this document. To name those who did not publicly identify themselves could have a chilling effect on witness cooperation in other cases.

recalled that while driving, the decedent ejected the magazine from the handgun, looked at it, then put it back in the gun.

The witness advised that the decedent was driving erratically through traffic. She noticed the first police car get behind them and activate their blue lights while they were on I-77. She recalled that the decedent exited I-77 toward Morehead Street and then drove toward Freedom Drive where he made a sudden U-turn, rolled down the windows, and shot at pursuing officers.

The witness recounted that the decedent then drove to the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street, but the area was congested, and the decedent had nowhere else to go. The witness advised that the decedent told her to get out, but she used that opportunity to escape and ran into a nearby restaurant. She recalled that as she fled, the decedent got out of the vehicle and looked as though he was preparing to shoot at officers again, but she did not see what happened after she ran from the vehicle.

Officer Bradley Borzick

On October 23, 2025, at approximately 9:50 p.m., Officer Bradley Borzick was interviewed by investigators at the Law Enforcement Center located at 601 E. Trade Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. Officer Borzick recalled that just after 4:00 p.m., CMPD Freedom Division requested assistance with a shooting that had just occurred at the QuikTrip gas station. While enroute to the shooting, he became aware of a pursuit of a red SUV. Officer Borzick and his partner became the second vehicle in the pursuit. The pursuit exited the interstate onto Morehead Street and then onto Freedom Drive. Officer Borzick advised that the vehicle then did a U-turn on Freedom Drive and, while doing so, Officer Borzick observed the driver of the vehicle point a handgun with his right hand and fire several shots toward him and his partner. Officer Borzick described the driver of the vehicle as a black male wearing a white shirt with an average build. He believed the shots fired at them went into their vehicle's engine block. Officer Borzick recounted that the SUV then encountered traffic and the driver, who had just fired at them, fled on foot. Officer Borzick then heard numerous shots fired but was unsure how many. He did not witness the officer-involved shooting but did see officers putting the male into handcuffs following the shooting.

Officer Joseph Pharr

Officer Joseph Pharr was interviewed by investigators at the Law Enforcement Center located at 601 E. Trade Street in Charlotte, North Carolina on October 31, 2025. Officer Pharr advised that he had been employed with CMPD since October 2020 and was assigned to patrol in the Metro Division.

Officer Pharr recounted that on the afternoon of October 23, 2025, he was in full uniform and driving PDA 1010, a marked patrol car. That afternoon, he saw notifications for priority calls within the division on the department computer-aided dispatch system. Officer Pharr saw an assault with deadly weapon call where officers in that area requested additional officers for assistance. He recalled that when he got to the area of the Brookshire and I-85 interchange, a kidnapping call came over the radio and the Real Time Crime Center informed officers that the suspect vehicle had made a right turn onto the Brookshire Freeway. Officer Pharr indicated he began circulating the area looking for the maroon-colored GMC SUV. At this time, an officer

from the Freedom division spotted the vehicle in the area of the 485 interchange off Brookshire. Officer Pharr recalled that the suspect vehicle was initially only being pursued with regard to the kidnapping, however, officers determined that the suspect, later identified as the decedent, was also involved in shootings within the same time frame.

Officer Pharr stated that after he located the subject vehicle, he kept the vehicle in sight until the CMPD helicopter was also able to locate the vehicle. Other officers then initiated a vehicle pursuit, and the decedent did not stop. Officer Pharr momentarily joined the pursuit but ultimately disengaged his lights and siren while continuing to drive in the direction of the pursuit.

Officer Pharr reported that other officers continued to pursue the decedent as he made a right turn onto Morehead Street. Officer Pharr described that area as heavily congested during that time of day. He recalled that the decedent drove toward the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street and then made a right turn onto Freedom Drive outbound. While on Freedom Drive, the decedent made a U-turn and officers communicated over the radio that the decedent had fired at them as he made the U-turn. Officer Pharr recounted that he could not see the decedent fire at officers at this time because there was a patrol car in front of him.

Officer Pharr advised that he then engaged his lights and sirens, made a U-turn, and then became the lead pursuit vehicle behind the decedent going inbound on Freedom Drive. Officer Pharr recalled that the decedent wrecked his vehicle at the congested intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street and Officer Pharr positioned his vehicle at an angle with his front passenger wheel at the driver side of the decedent's vehicle to give himself as much protection as possible. Officer Pharr advised that the decedent got out of the driver's seat of the GMC. Officer Pharr drew his weapon and saw the decedent brandish a firearm.

Officer Pharr recalled that he heard a pop and saw the decedent fire. He recounted that he knew there were civilian cars behind him and tried to draw the fire away from his driver's side door area by getting back into the driver's seat of his patrol car and firing at the decedent. Officer Pharr stated he had his left leg braced on the ground outside the car, and he fired multiple rounds through his windshield toward the decedent, using his department issued handgun. Officer Pharr stated that he heard the first round the decedent fired at him but did not know how many other times the decedent fired. Officer Pharr recalled that the kidnapped female was with the decedent prior to the shots being fired, but at some point, she exited the car and he did not know where she went.

Officer Pharr advised that after he fired through his windshield, he saw the decedent, dressed in a white shirt and jeans and carrying a gun in his right hand, start to run on foot toward the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street. Officer Pharr pursued the decedent on foot across the median toward West Morehead Street. Officer Pharr recounted that while running, the decedent briefly turned with the gun in his hand again, pointing it toward Officer Pharr. Officer Pharr stated that he pointed his gun at the decedent while they were both running, but Officer Pharr did not have a safe shot due to multiple civilian vehicles in close proximity. Instead, Officer Pharr continued to pursue the decedent without firing due to the civilians in danger in the backdrop of the target area. During this foot chase, Officer Pharr saw other patrol cars coming from the uptown area.

Officer Pharr recalled that as the decedent passed the corner of a civilian vehicle near the Wells Fargo bank, the decedent lifted his right arm up with the gun in his hand turning back toward Officer Pharr. At that time, Officer Pharr saw that his backdrop was clear and fired at the decedent. Officer Pharr stated that he fired his weapon until he believed that the decedent was no longer a threat. Officer Pharr was unsure of how many rounds he fired but noticed that his gun was locked back to the rear and his magazine was empty. Officer Pharr stated that he did not reload his weapon.

Officer Pharr recalled that when the decedent fell to the ground, several other officers began to render aid to the decedent. Officer Pharr then holstered his weapon where it remained until investigators took it from him to conduct a round count on his weapon. Officer Pharr was not injured during the incident. He did not recall whether he said anything to the decedent while the decedent was running from him or whether the decedent made any other statement.

When asked why he felt compelled to shoot his weapon, Officer Pharr advised that the decedent had shot at officers during the pursuit and that the decedent fired at Officer Pharr when the decedent exited his vehicle. He stated he was aware of the decedent's earlier violent crimes, and he believed the decedent posed a threat to the public and his fellow officers. Officer Pharr noted that he had never had any contact with the decedent prior to this date.

A round count conducted on Officer Pharr's weapon suggested he fired 18 rounds during the encounter. Fourteen of those rounds were recovered on scene, with seven recovered from the roadway on Morehead Street and seven recovered from inside Officer Pharr's patrol vehicle on Freedom Drive.

Officer Reilly Delk

Officer Reilly Delk was interviewed by investigators at the Law Enforcement Center located at 601 E. Trade Street in Charlotte, North Carolina on October 31, 2025. Officer Delk advised that he had been employed with CMPD for approximately five years and was assigned to patrol in the Metro Division. Officer Delk was qualified to carry a CMPD patrol rifle.

On the afternoon of October 23, 2025, Officer Delk began to monitor a priority incident in another division involving an assault with a deadly weapon. Officer Delk decided to head towards the priority incident at the Quik Trip gas station on Brookshire Drive. While on scene, he heard talk of a possible kidnapping in the area of his current location. He recalled that the suspect vehicle was described as a burgundy SUV that was outbound on Brookshire Drive. CMPD's Real Time Crime Center then located the vehicle, and other officers observed the vehicle getting onto Interstate 485.

Officer Delk advised that officers began to pursue the SUV, and he engaged his emergency lights and siren in his marked CMPD cruiser and got onto the I-485 inner loop to assist. Officer Delk recounted that the vehicle pursuit continued to Interstate 77 and then onto Morehead Street. He stated that officers advised over the radio that the driver of the vehicle fired a gun at patrol vehicles.

Based on this information, Officer Delk removed his CMPD issued rifle, a Daniel Defense rifle with a red dot sight and a thirty-round magazine, from the holder and chambered a round. Once on Morehead Street, Officer Delk exited his vehicle and observed a black male

wearing a white t-shirt running towards him with a firearm in his hand. Officer Delk observed the male raising the firearm towards him and proceeded to disengage the safety of his rifle and fired at the decedent as the decedent ran towards him. Officer Delk advised that he believed he had to shoot due to his life being in immediate danger. He believed the decedent was five to ten feet away from him when the shooting occurred. Officer Delk reported that he continued to shoot until the decedent stopped moving. Officer Delk advised he was unable to give any verbal commands to the decedent due to how quickly the situation unfolded. Officer Delk reported that he and other Officers were wearing the CMPD Class B uniform with their badge displayed and he was also operating a marked CMPD patrol car.

Officer Delk advised that following the shooting, he observed numerous officers rendering aid to the decedent, and he placed his CMPD issued rifle inside his marked CMPD cruiser.

A round count conducted on Officer Delk's rifle determined there were 16 rounds remaining in the magazine and one in the chamber of the weapon. Eleven spent rounds were recovered from the roadway.

E. Video evidence

Video recorded by the CMPD helicopter captured the vehicle pursuit including the decedent's exit from I-77 onto Morehead Street, the right turn onto outbound Freedom Drive, and the U-turn on Freedom Drive. In addition to the video of the U-turn, the recording captured the radio traffic of an officer relaying that the decedent fired at officers. The video then captured the decedent exiting the suspect vehicle near the intersection of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street, pointing his firearm at Officer Pharr, then fleeing on foot across Morehead Street as Officer Pharr gave chase. With his gun drawn, the decedent chased after a moving car in what may have been an attempt at another carjacking. The video then captured the decedent encountering Officer Delk as the decedent passed a white SUV at which point both Officers Delk and Pharr fired their weapons.

Officer Pharr's body-worn camera recorded his vehicle pursuit of the decedent, including the radio traffic in which officers relayed that the decedent fired at them as he performed the U-turn. Officer Pharr then continued the pursuit until the decedent exited the SUV at the corner of Freedom Drive and Morehead Street. Gunshots can be heard as Officer Pharr exited his vehicle. Officer Pharr is recorded ducking back into his car and firing through his windshield at the decedent multiple times. Officer Pharr then continued the pursuit on foot onto Morehead Street while commanding the decedent to stop running. When the decedent approached Officer Delk's location, Officers Delk and Pharr fired at the decedent. The decedent then fell, and Officer Pharr's body-worn camera captured the decedent's firearm sliding across the pavement and coming to rest underneath a nearby patrol vehicle.

Officer Delk's body-worn camera recorded him preparing his rifle for an encounter, exiting his car, and immediately being confronted by the decedent as the decedent pointed a gun in his direction. Officer Delk fired his weapon multiple times. The video then recorded officers placing the decedent in custody while Officer Delk placed his rifle in his patrol vehicle.

F. Physical evidence

The decedent's Glock 43x, 9mm caliber handgun was found underneath CMPD vehicle 883 where it slid after falling from the decedent's grasp. The slide was locked back after having fired the last round, and no live rounds remained in the weapon.

One live Blazer 9mm Luger round was recovered from the decedent's pocket. Four live Blazer 9mm Luger rounds were collected from the roadway near the decedent's body. One discharged Blazer 9mm Luger round was collected from the driver's seat of the red GMC Terrain and two more were located on the roadway near the red GMC Terrain. A fourth discharged Blazer 9mm Luger round was collected on the crosswalk on Freedom Drive at the intersection of Morehead Street. A fifth was collected from the roadway on Freedom Drive where the decedent made the U-turn.

Seven discharged WIN 9mm rounds were located near the decedent's body. Seven more were located inside Officer Pharr's patrol vehicle.

11 discharged LC 24 rifle rounds were collected from the roadway near Officer Delk's vehicle.

CMPD vehicle 1010, Officer Pharr's patrol vehicle, had a bullet defect on the driver's side front hood above the headlight. There was a second bullet defect into the driver's door. CMPD vehicle 1223, Officer Borzick's patrol vehicle, had two bullet defects entering the hood of the vehicle.

G. Autopsy report

The Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy on January 13, 2025. The autopsy determined that the decedent suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be gunshot wounds of the torso and extremities.

Toxicology analysis performed on the decedent's blood revealed no drugs or ethanol present in his system.

H. Conclusion

It is undisputed that Officers Pharr and Delk fired their weapons multiple times at the decedent. The central issue in this review is whether these officers were justified under North Carolina law in using deadly force in the protection of themselves or others. A police officer – or any other person – is justified in using deadly force if they, in fact, believed that themselves or another person was in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death from the actions of the person who was shot, and if their belief was reasonable.

Graham v. Connor directs consideration of the following factors: (1) "whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others," as well as (2) "the severity of

the crime at issue" and (3) whether the suspect "is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989).

The evidence in this case is that the decedent was actively engaged in kidnapping a civilian at gunpoint. Furthermore, the decedent was actively evading capture when he fired multiple times at pursuing officers. In addition, the decedent was a suspect in, and had in fact committed, two homicides, three attempted carjackings, and one attempted home invasion, in addition to the completed home invasion that resulted in the kidnapping. The evidence conclusively establishes that the decedent fired multiple times, on at least two occasions, at pursuing officers and pointed his firearm at Officer Delk during the pursuit. It is without question that Officers Pharr and Delk were justified in exercising deadly force in defense of themselves, the kidnapping victim, and members of the public. Accordingly, the State will not pursue criminal charges related to the death of Joseph Ajani Andrade.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spencer B. Merriweather III".

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

CC: Chief Estella Patterson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Exhibits:

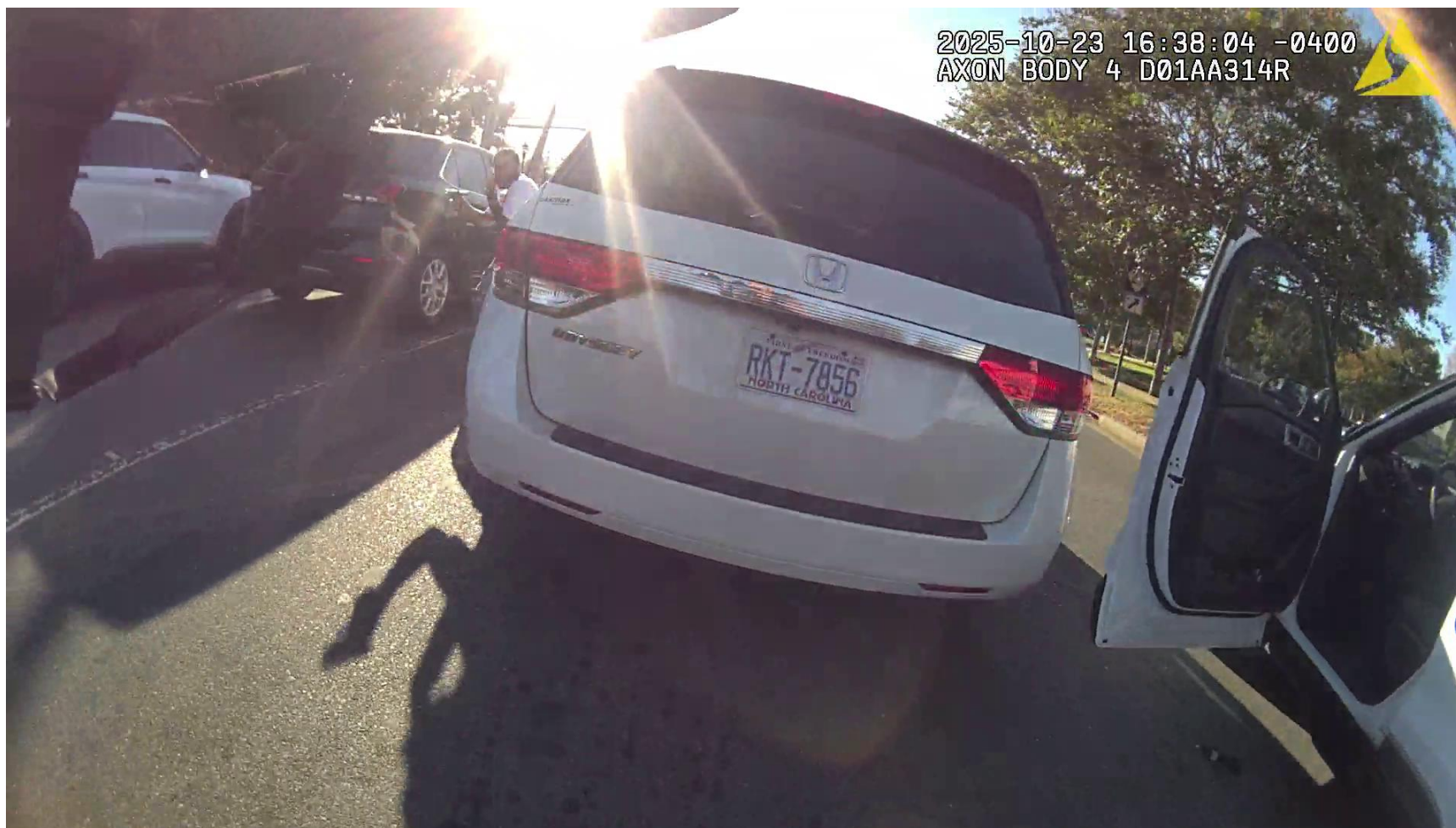
The decedent exits the stolen GMC Terrain and fires at Officer Pharr.

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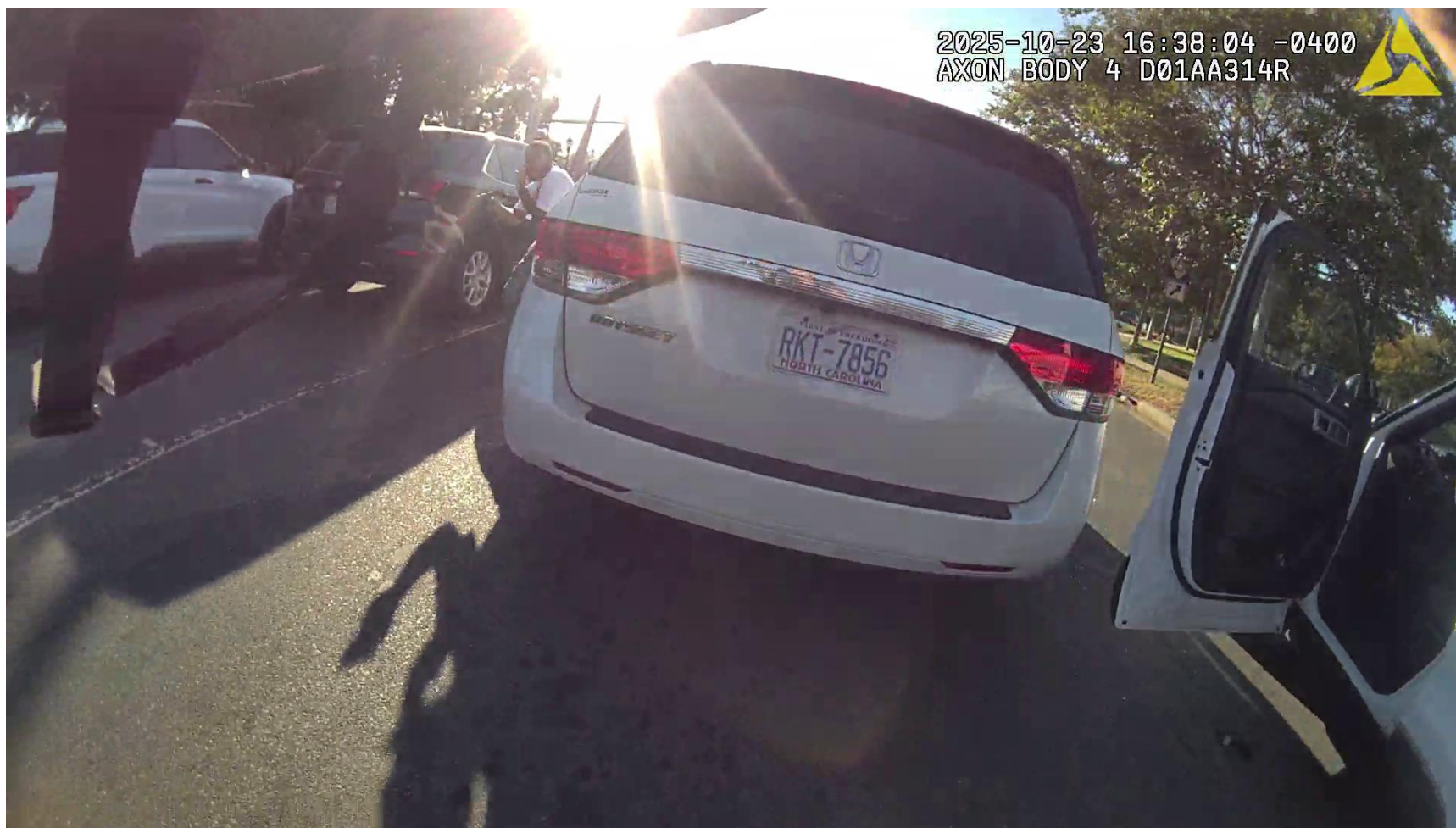
The decedent, fleeing Officer Pharr, points his gun at Officer Delk (1 of 4).

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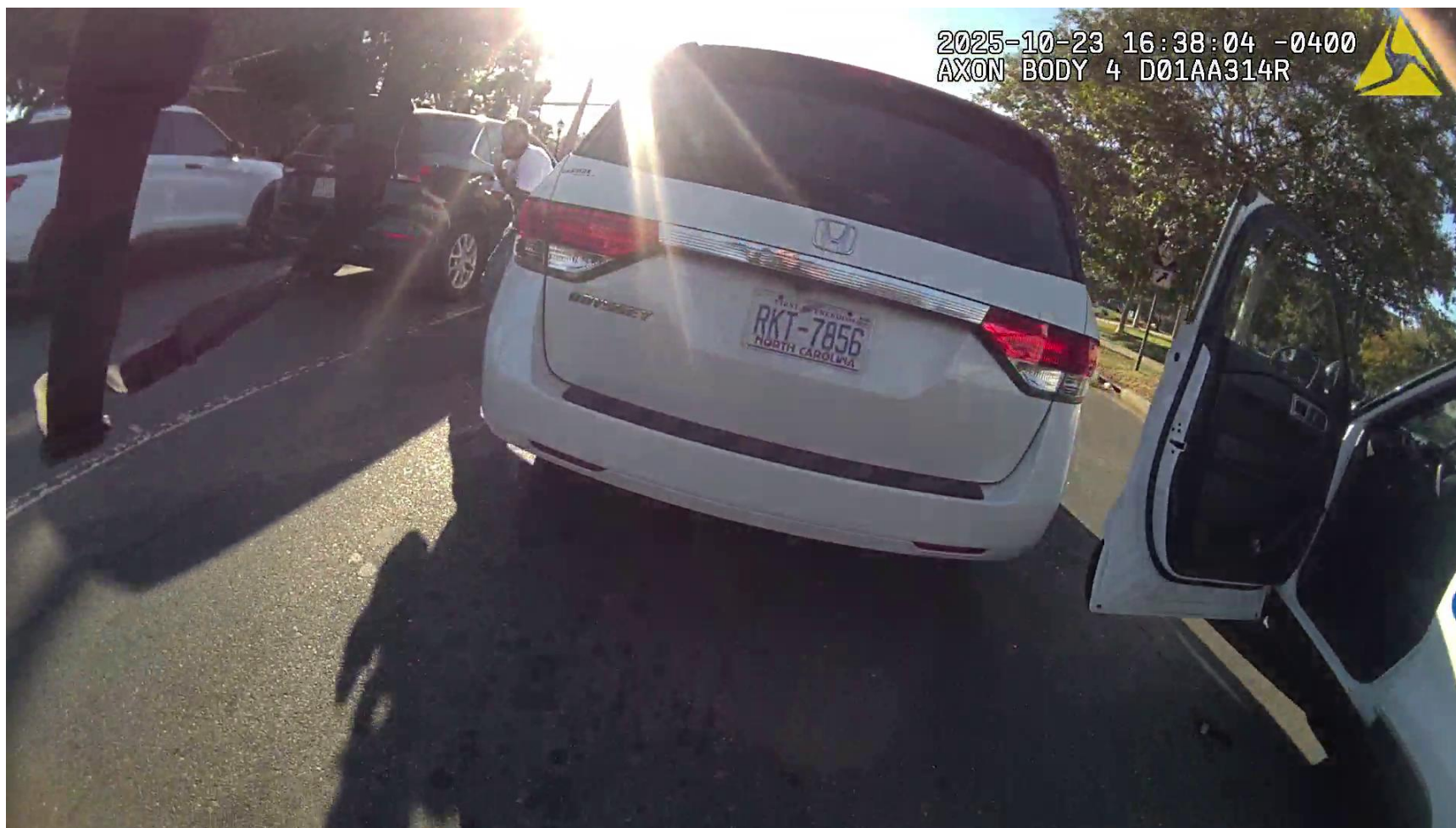
The decedent, fleeing Officer Pharr, points his gun at Officer Delk (2 of 4).

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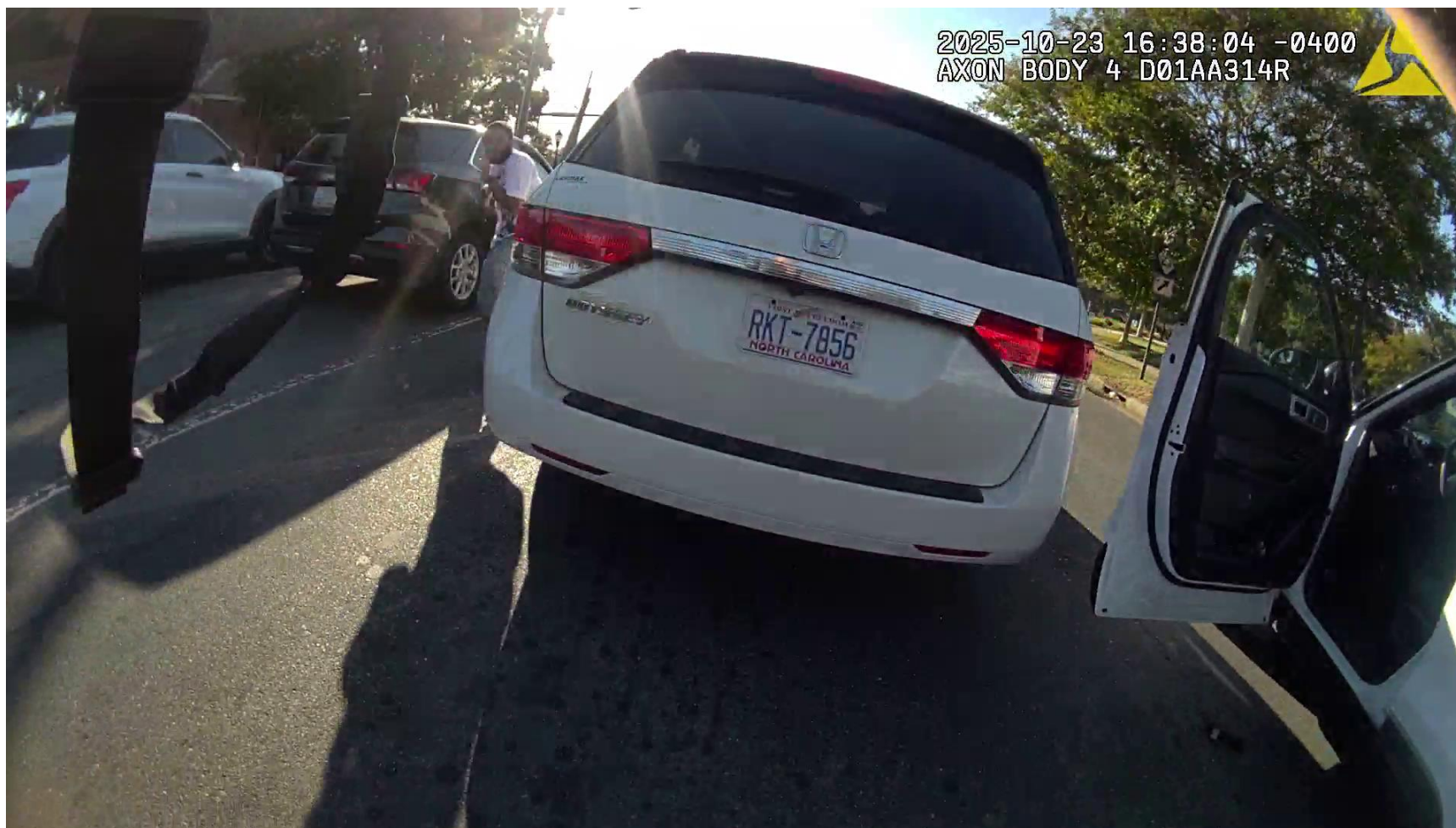
The decedent, fleeing Officer Pharr, points his gun at Officer Delk (3 of 4).

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The decedent, fleeing Officer Pharr, points his gun at Officer Delk (4 of 4).

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The decedent's Glock 43X 9mm handgun recovered on scene.

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Mecklenburg County Medical Examiners' Office

3440 Reno Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

Telephone 7043362005

Fax 7043368353

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier: B25-5435

Name: Joseph Andrade

Age: 28

Race: Black

Sex: Male

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Benjamin Ross Daggett, MD. Received from Mecklenburg County.

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified by Tags/Papers

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam: 10/24/25 Time of Exam: 0900

Persons Present: Kelsey Clark

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death: Gunshot wounds of the torso and extremities.

Manner of Death: Homicide.

Forensic Pathologist: Benjamin R. Daggett, MD

Date of Final Report: 12/22/2025

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

The decedent is a 28-year-old male who was shot during a pursuit by Law Enforcement. Autopsy examination reveals gunshot wound of the bilateral arms, right side, back, and bilateral legs with injuries of heart, bilateral lungs, liver, stomach, spleen, kidneys, small bowel, large bowel, aorta, inferior vena cava, and iliac artery and vein.

Please see separate report for toxicology details.

It is my opinion, based on the circumstances surrounding death and the findings at autopsy, that Mr. Joseph Andrade died as a result of gunshot wounds of the torso and extremities.

DIAGNOSES

1. Gunshot wound of the anterior right shoulder.
--Injury of the right clavicle and scapula.
2. Gunshot wounds of the right axilla, right arm, right thumb, left shoulder, and left posterior arm.
--Injuries of the soft tissues of the upper arms and thumb.
3. Gunshot wound of the right upper side.
--Injuries of the soft tissue of the right side and midback.
4. Gunshot wound of the right lower side.
--Injuries of the right lower lung, liver, stomach, and spleen.
5. Gunshot wound of the left side of the back.
--Injury of the descending aorta, heart, and left lower lung lobe.
6. Gunshot wound of the left lateral, posterior/lateral thigh.
--Injury of soft tissues of the thigh.
7. Gunshot wound of the posterior left knee.
--Injuries of the soft tissue of the left thigh/knee.
8. Gunshot wounds of the right lateral thigh.
--Injuries of the small bowel, large bowel, kidneys, inferior vena cava, iliac vessels, and descending aorta.

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length: 71 inches

Weight: 159 pounds

Body Condition: Intact

Rigor: 3+

Lividity: Posterior

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Teeth: Natural upper and lower

Body Development: Normal

Body Nourishment: Normal

Clothing: A t-shirt (previously cut), a pair of pants (previously cut), a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes

Accompanies the body: A black watch and three medical tourniquets

Identifying Marks: All tattoos and scars are as recorded on the body diagrams

Medical Intervention: As documented on the body diagrams.

Other: N/A

INJURIES

The body bears injuries due to multiple gunshot wounds. For orientation purposes, the top of the head is designated as 12:00.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE RIGHT ANTERIOR SHOULDER

Entrance: On the anterior aspect of the right shoulder is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. A circular abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 9.8 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 5.4 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the right clavicle, fracturing it, and struck the acromion and anterior aspect of the right scapula.

Exit: None

Bullet: Bullet fragments were recovered from the anterior aspect of the right scapula.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is backward with minimal deviation.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE RIGHT ARMPIT

Entrance: On the posterior aspect of the right armpit is a 0.4 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.4 inches, and is most pronounced from the 10:00-2:00 direction. The wound is centered 15.4 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 6.8 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the soft tissue of the right arm.

Exit: None

Bullet: A bullet is recovered from the soft tissue of the lateral right shoulder.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is rightward with deviation forward and slightly upward.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE UPPER RIGHT SIDE

Entrance: On the right side is an atypical entrance-type gunshot wound measuring 2.5 x 1.8 inches. This wound is likely produced by multiple bullets entering in close proximity. An area of abrasion surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.4 inches, and is most pronounced from the 2:00-7:00 direction. The wound is centered 21.4 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 5 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: Bullets passed through the soft tissue of the right side and back

Exit: On the right upper back is an exit wound measuring 1.0 x 0.2 inches with an area of abrasion around it measuring 0.5 inches. The exit wound is centered 17.3 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 5.2 inches to the right of midline.

Path continued: A bullet then continues, perforating the soft tissues of the right side of the back.

Near exit: On the right side of the back is a 0.2 x 0.1 inch near-exit wound with bullet retained. The wound is centered 19 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 2.5 inches to the right of midline.

Bullet: A bullet is recovered deep to the near-exit wound.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is leftward with deviation backward and downward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE LOWER RIGHT SIDE

Entrance: On the lower right side is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. The wound is surrounded by a circular abrasion collar measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 32.6 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 5 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet entered the chest cavity through the eleventh intercostal space laterally, lacerated the right lower lung lobe, perforated the diaphragm, liver, colon, stomach, spleen, and diaphragm again before exiting the chest through the ninth intercostal space posterolaterally.

Exit: None

Bullet: A bullet is recovered from the soft tissue of the left side of the back.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is leftward with deviation upward and slightly forward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE RIGHT ARM

Entrance: On the anterior/lateral aspect of the right arm is a 0.4 x 0.3 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.3 inches, and is most pronounced from the 2:00-4:00 direction. The wound is centered 6.4 inches below the vertex of the shoulder. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the soft tissue of the right arm.

Exit: On the posterior/lateral aspect of the right arm is a 0.5 x 0.4 inch exit-type gunshot wound. The wound is centered 5.5 inches below the top of the right shoulder.

Bullet: None

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is backward with deviation slightly upward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE RIGHT THUMB

Entrance: On the posterior aspect of the right thumb is a 0.1 x 0.1 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. A circular abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 4.6 inches below the wrist. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the thumb.

Exit: On the palmar surface of the right thumb is a 0.2 x 0.1 inch exit-type gunshot wound. The wound is centered 4.6 inches below the wrist.

Bullet: None

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is forward.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE LEFT SHOULDER

On the lateral aspects of the left shoulder are two gunshot wounds with indeterminate directionality between them. As such, both wounds will be described as entrances and a course will not be given.

Wound #1: On the superior/anterior aspect of the left shoulder is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.4 inches, most pronounced from the 9:00-11:00 direction. The wound is centered 3.4 inches below the top of the left shoulder.

Bullet Track: The bullet damaged the soft tissue of the shoulder

Wound #2: On the inferior/posterior aspect of the left shoulder is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.4 inches and most pronounced from the 3:00-5:00 direction. The wound is centered 4.2 inches below the top of the left shoulder.

Bullet: None

Course: See above.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE RIGHT THIGH

On the right thigh are two entrance-type gunshot wounds whose paths cannot be determined. Therefore, they will be described together.

Entrance #1: On the anterior aspect of the right thigh is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.5 inches and most pronounced from the 1:00-3:00 direction. The wound is centered 8.5 inches below the top of the hip.

Entrance #2: On the lateral aspect of the right thigh is a 0.1 x 0.1 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. A circular abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 9.9 inches below the top of the right hip. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around these wounds.

Path: These bullets passed through the soft tissues of the right thigh and entered the abdominal and pelvic cavities where they fragment, causing extensive perforating injuries to include multiple injuries of the small bowel, colon, perforating wounds of the right iliac vessels, the inferior vena cava, the descending aorta, and the bilateral kidneys.

Exit: None

Bullet: Bullet fragments are recovered from within the abdominal and pelvic cavities.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullets are upward with deviation leftward and slightly backward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BACK

Entrance: On the left side of the midback is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. A circular abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 20.6 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 3 inches to the left of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the tenth intercostal space posteriorly, perforated the descending aorta, perforated the heart at the apex, perforated the left lower lung lobe, and exited the chest through the sixth rib anteriorly.

Exit: None

Bullet: A bullet is recovered from the soft tissue of the anterior chest, underlying a 1.0 x 0.9 inch abrasion.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is forward with deviation slightly upward and slightly rightward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE POSTERIOR LEFT THIGH

Entrance: On the posterior/lateral aspect of the left thigh is a 0.1 x 0.1 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. A circular abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.1 inches. The wound is centered 7.0 inches below the top of the left hip. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the soft tissues of the left thigh.

Exit: On the medial aspects of the left thigh are three exit-type gunshot wound measuring 0.6 x 0.5 inch, 0.3 x 0.2 inch, and 0.3 x 0.3 inch. These three wounds are centered 11.0 inches below the left hip.

Bullet: None

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is rightward with deviation downward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE LEFT CALF AND KNEE

Grazes: On the posterior aspect of the left calf are two graze wounds that are in line with each other. The first measures 0.9 x 0.2 inch and the second measures 2.1 x 0.8 inches. They run in the 6:00-12:00 direction.

Entrance: Superior to the graze wounds is a 0.9 x 0.5 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.6 inches and is most pronounced from the 4:00-7:00 direction. The wound is centered 17.7 inches below the top of the left hip.

Path: The bullet passed through the soft tissue of the left knee/thigh.

Exit: On the medial aspect of the left knee is a 2.3 x 1.0 inch exit-type gunshot wound. The wound is centered 16.0 inches below the top of the left hip.

Bullet: Bullet fragments are recovered from within the wound path.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is forward through the thigh with a portion that is going vertically up the calf.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE POSTERIOR LEFT ARM

Entrance: On the posterior aspect of the left arm is a 0.4 x 0.3 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.4 inches and most pronounced from the 2:00-5:00 direction. The wound is centered 9.0 inches below the top of the left shoulder. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through approximately 1.3 inches of soft tissue of the left arm.

Exit: On the posterior/lateral aspect of the left arm is a 0.2 x 0.1-inch exit-type gunshot wound. The wound is centered 8.0 inches below the top of the left shoulder.

Bullet: None

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is upward and leftward.

ADDITIONAL INJURIES

Above the right eyebrow is a 0.2 x 0.2 inch abrasion. Above the medial aspect of the left eyebrow is a 0.6 x 0.3 inch contusion. On the lateral aspect of the left brow is a 0.4 x 0.2 inch abrasion. On the right side, overlying the hip and upper thigh, are three areas of abrasion measuring 2.0 x 0.7 inches, 2.5 x 2.0 inches, and 0.6 x 0.3 inch. On the anterior aspect of the left knee is an area of abrasion measuring 2.6 x 0.9 inches, and on the anterior aspect of the right knee is an area of abrasion measuring 0.8 x 0.5 inch.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

Any injuries/hemorrhage as described in the INJURIES section above

Organ positions: Normal and present unless stated below

Abnormal fluid collections: Bilateral hemothorax, hemopericardium, and hemoperitoneum

Adhesions: None

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight: 260 grams

Pericardium: Normal

Coronary arteries: Normal distribution with no atherosclerosis

Chamber and valves: Normal

Myocardium: See "Evidence of Injury."

Aorta and major branches: Normal

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight: 260 grams

Left Lung Weight: 230 grams

Neck Soft tissues: Normal

Hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages: Normal

Trachea and bronchi: Unremarkable without obstructions

Lung parenchyma: See "Evidence of Injury."

Pulmonary arteries: Unobstructed

Gastrointestinal System

See "Evidence of Injury."

Liver

Liver Weight: 1140 grams

See "Evidence of Injury."

Spleen

Spleen Weight: 40 grams

See "Evidence of Injury."

Pancreas

Grossly unremarkable

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight: 110 grams

Left Kidney Weight: 140 grams

See "Evidence of Injury."

Reproductive

Grossly unremarkable

Endocrine

Thyroid gland: Normal

Adrenal glands: Normal

Neurologic

Brain Weight: 1410 grams

Scalp: Normal

Skull: Normal

Vasculature: Normal

Leptomeninges: Normal
Brain: Normal
Immunologic System
Grossly unremarkable
Musculoskeletal System
See "Evidence of Injury."

OTHER PROCEDURES

Radiographs: Full-body anterior/posterior and lateral radiographs are performed.

Evidence Collected: A blood card, bullet fragments from the wound on the right side, bullet fragments from the left medial thigh/knee, bullet fragments from the right side of the back at the near exit, bullet fragments from the left side of the back, bullet fragments from the right lateral shoulder, bullet fragments from the right thigh, bullet fragments from the left chest, bullet fragments from the anterior right shoulder/scapula, and bullet fragments from the abdomen, a t-shirt (previously cut), a pair of pants (previously cut), a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes, a black watch, and three medical tourniquets.

Cultures: None

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Sections submitted: None

Findings: N/A

DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE

The following items are released with the body: None.

The following items are preserved as evidence: A blood card, bullet fragments from the wound on the right side, bullet fragments from the left medial thigh/knee wound, bullet fragments from the right side of the back at the near exit, bullet fragments from the left side of the back, bullet fragments from the right lateral shoulder, bullet fragments from the right thigh, bullet fragments from the left chest, bullet fragments from the anterior right shoulder/scapula, and bullet fragments from the abdomen, a t-shirt (previously cut), a pair of pants (previously cut), a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes, a black watch, and three medical tourniquets.

END OF REPORT- Diagrams attached

BRD/km

DID #: 40869547

State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: Joseph Andrade

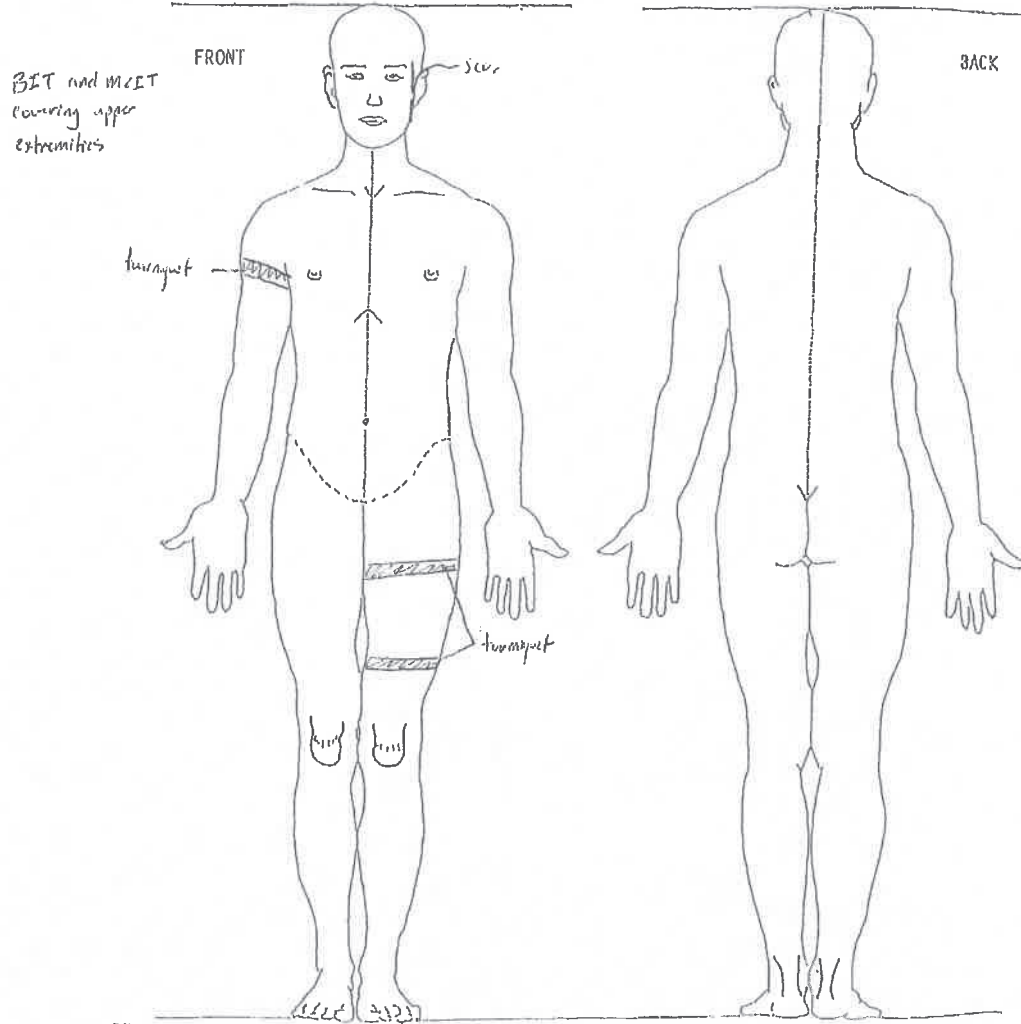
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # B25-5435

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: BEO/KC Date: Oct. 24, 2005

BODY DIAGRAM; ADULT (Front/Back)



DIENR 1817 (4/97)
Medical Examiner

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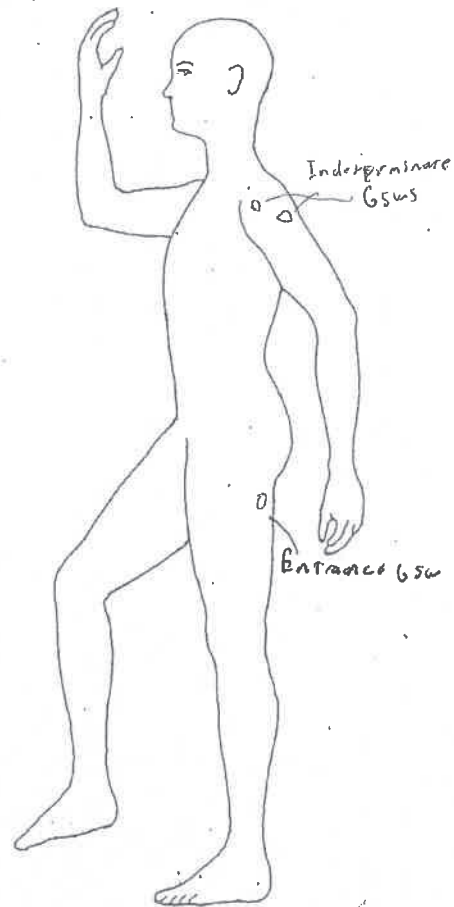
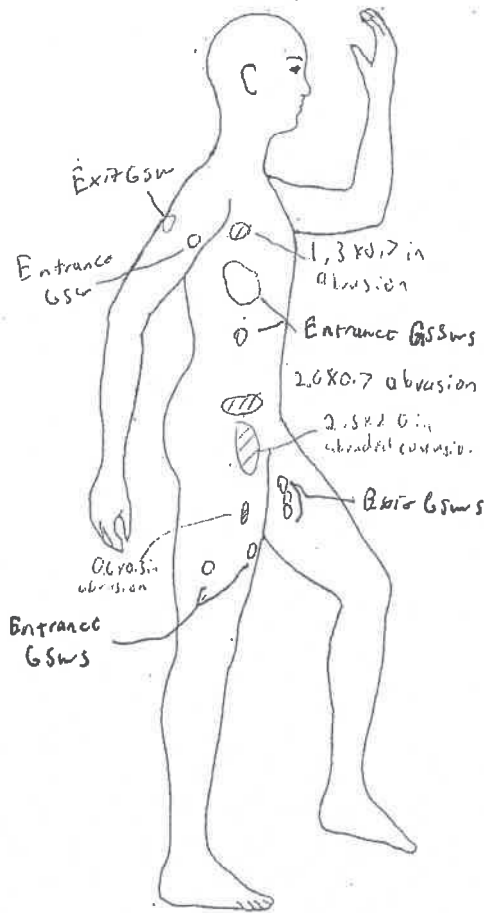
PAGE ___ OF ___

State of North Carolina
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Name of Decedent: Joseph Andrade
Autopsy # B25-5435
Examined By: BRO/KC Date: 10/24/05

BODY DIAGRAM:

PROFILE (Left/Right)



DBENR 3461 (4/97)
Medical Examiner

PAGE ___ OF ___

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TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Toxicology Folder: T202511524
Raleigh, NC 27699-3025 Case Folder: F202504447
Date of Report: 21-nov-2025
DOD: 23-oct-2025
Page: 2

Decedent: Joseph Andrade
* * *

Accredited by the College of American Pathologists,
Laboratory Accreditation Program.

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