

#2017-62

REC'D JUL 05 2017



Standard-Examiner
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July 5, 2017

To Nova Dubovik:

This notice of appeal is in regards to the Weber County GRAMA Appeals Board's rejection of my request for surveillance footage the Weber County Attorney's Office obtained in connection with its investigation into a fatal officer-involved shooting Feb. 21, 2017, in Roy.

Two Roy Police Department officers were involved in the incident, which happened outside a Texaco gas station at 4395 S. 1900 West and led to the death of

My original request for the record was filed with the Weber County Attorney's Office Feb. 23, 2017. I was directed to the Roy Police Department, which subsequently informed me the attorney's office must provide the record. So, another GRAMA request was filed with the Weber County Attorney's Office April 5, 2017.

A lack of response from the office on multiple occasions led to an appeals hearing with the Weber County Appeals Board, which formally rejected the request via email June 8, 2017.

I understand these records to be public under Utah Code § 63G-2-301. My request is also supported by the State Records Committee's Jan. 12, 2017, decision on case No. 17-02. That decision was based in part on Utah Code § 63G-2-201(2), Utah Code § 63G-2-403(11)(b), and Utah Dept. of Pub. Safety v. Vanocur, Utah Third Judicial Dist. Case No. 100904439 (June 17, 2010).

As body camera footage showing the incident has already been released, it is not reasonable to argue releasing surveillance footage would interfere with the Weber County Attorney's Office's investigation into the incident (as argued with Utah Code Ann. § 63G-2-305(10)).

Though releasing the body camera footage offered some insight into what happened during the incident, it wasn't entirely clear — frenzied movements and darkness obscured the series of events, to a degree. As another video showing the incident exists, it is in the public's interest to see the record and gain a greater degree of clarity from it.

This was a shooting carried out in a public place by public employees that led to a man's death. Especially considering the national dialogue surrounding police shootings — particularly of non-white individuals — the public has the right to see and assess whether officers' actions were justified. This is a matter of public safety on its most basic level; it is difficult to imagine what would be of more public interest than this.

If you have questions about my original requests or this appeal, please feel free to get in touch with me at aetaylor@standard.net or 817-235-1443.

Best,

Ann Elise Taylor
News editor