

MICHAEL J. ROURKE  
District Attorney



ROBERT W. MILLER  
Assistant District Attorney

Office of the District Attorney  
Nineteenth Judicial District

915 10<sup>TH</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1167  
Greeley, CO 80632  
Phone: (970) 356-4010  
Fax: (970) 352-8023  
[www.weldda.com](http://www.weldda.com)

March 2, 2021

Chief Mark Jones  
Greeley Police Department  
2875 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, CO 80634

**RE: Investigation of the January 19, 2021 Officer-Involved Shooting of  
Christopher Dockery**

Chief Jones:

The investigation into the shooting of Christopher Dockery has been completed by the Critical Response Incident Team (CIRT). Applying the facts from the investigation to applicable Colorado law, criminal charges will not be filed against Officers 1 through 6. Attached hereto are the findings of the Investigations Unit of the District Attorney's office based on the entirety of the CIRT investigation. This report applies the facts from the investigation to the pertinent Colorado laws.

I have determined that, under the circumstances presented in this investigation, I will not release the name of the officers involved in this incident. The Colorado Supreme Court in *Harris v. Denver Post Corporation*, 123 P.3d 1166 (Colo. 2005) and *Freedom Colorado Information v. El Paso County Sheriff's Department*, 196 P.3d 892 (Colo. 2008) addressed the issue of whether, and under what circumstances, the Criminal Justice Records Act (CJRA) requires disclosure of records of official actions by criminal justice agencies.

These cases are not directly on point as the release of the officers' names alone does not fall squarely within the CJRA, but they are informative in analyzing whether such disclosure is appropriate. The cases require a "balancing test" by the custodian of criminal justice records prior to the disclosure of criminal justice records. This balancing test considers "the privacy interests of individuals who may be impacted by a decision to allow inspection; the agency's interest in keeping confidential information confidential; the agency's interest in pursuing ongoing investigations without compromising them; the public purpose to be served in allowing inspection; and any other pertinent consideration relevant to the circumstances of the particular request." *Harris* at 1175; *Freedom Colorado Information* at 899.

Here, the balancing test shows that the privacy interests of the individuals who may be impacted by a decision to allow inspection to outweigh the other four factors to be considered. The continued safety of the officers and their families is of paramount concern in this case since the individual involved in the incident with law enforcement has very strong and documented ties to known criminal gangs. Specifically, investigation into Dockery and his background

revealed that he has been identified as a member of the Gallant Knights Insane (“GKI”) by the Colorado Department of Corrections. He also previously admitted his membership in GKI to GPD investigators and is extensively tattooed with GKI tattoos. Therefore, I will not release the names of the officers, and they will be referred to in this report as Officers 1 through 6.

## **APPLICATION OF THE FACTS TO THE LAW**

The District Attorney’s office may ethically charge an individual with a crime only in cases where there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction. The law states that criminal liability is established in Colorado only if it is proven beyond a reasonable doubt that someone has committed all of the elements of an offense defined by Colorado statute.

Further, it must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt the offense was committed without any statutorily-recognized justification or excuse. While knowingly or intentionally shooting another human being is generally prohibited as homicide in Colorado, the Criminal Code specifies certain circumstances in which the use of physical force is justified, also known as an affirmative defense. Because the evidence establishes that Christopher Dockery was shot and killed by Officers 1 through 6, the determination of whether the conduct was criminal is a question of legal justification.

Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-1-707, as amended by the Colorado General Assembly in 2020 by SB 20-217, establishes when a peace officer can use potentially deadly force to defend himself or others. The pertinent subsections of the statute read as follows:

**C.R.S. § 18-1-707(3)** A peace officer is justified in using deadly physical force to make an arrest only when all other means of apprehension are unreasonable given the circumstances and:

- a) The arrest is for a felony involving conduct including the use or threatened use of deadly physical force;
- b) The suspect poses an immediate threat to the peace officer or another person;
- c) The force employed does not create a substantial risk of injury to other persons

**C.R.S. § 18-1-707(4)** A peace officer shall identify himself or herself as a peace officer and give a clear verbal warning of his or her intent to use firearms...unless to do so would unduly place peace officers at risk of injury or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons.

**C.R.S. § 18-1-707(4.5)** Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, a peace officer is justified in using deadly force if the peace officer has an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate and the peace officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe, that he or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving serious bodily injury.

**C.R.S. § 18-1-901(3)(d) “Deadly Physical Force”** means force, the intended, natural, and probable consequences of which is to produce death, and which does, in fact, produce death.

Colorado case law unequivocally states that when determining whether it was necessary for an individual to act in self-defense or in the defense of someone else, that person is entitled to rely on “apparent necessity.” This can be relied on so long as the conditions and circumstances are such that a person would reasonably believe the defensive action was necessary. *See People v. LaVoie*, 395 P.2d 1001 (1964); *Riley v. People*, 266 P.3d 1089 (Colo. 2011). Thus, it is irrelevant in this analysis whether Dockery intended to use deadly force. The issue is whether it was reasonable for the officers to believe that he was about to use deadly physical force against the officer or another person with a deadly weapon.

In this case, Officers 1 through 6 were attempting to contact Dockery, who was on parole and had been avoiding police. Dockery had an active warrant for Theft and Criminal Mischief as acts of domestic violence stemming from an incident occurring December 26, 2020. Dockery also had an active warrant for Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, and Felony Menacing for an incident that occurred on January 5, 2021.

Specifically, on January 19, 2021 officers had located Dockery and were following him on southbound I-25. Dockery was involved in a traffic accident. Dockery attempted to get one of the undercover officers to assist him, and, upon realizing this person was law enforcement, Dockery fled. Dockery ran across I-25 and carjacked an elderly couple at gunpoint and escaped.

Later in the afternoon of January 19, 2021 officers located Dockery in Greeley. Dockery was observed getting into a 4Runner at 1729 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Law enforcement attempted a high-risk traffic stop of Dockery on Reservoir Road. The driver of the 4Runner was ultimately forced out of his car at gunpoint by Dockery and Dockery fled the scene turning south on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Officers, including Officers 1 through 6, pursued Dockery several blocks south on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue at a high rate of speed. Dockery jumped the curb at a gas station located 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street crashing into a parked car.

Dockery then attempted to carjack a BMW in front of the gas station but was unsuccessful. Dockery then ran to the southeast to a carwash behind the gas station. Dockery attempted to steal a car at gunpoint while the owner was vacuuming in the backseat. Officers, including officers 1 through 6, converged on him at this vehicle.

Officer 1 was aware Dockery was on parole and wanted. Officer 1 also knew he carjacked an elderly couple at gunpoint on I-25 earlier that day. Officer 1 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop on Reservoir Road and the ensuing pursuit. He saw Dockery crash into the car at the gas station. He approached the vehicle Dockery was attempting steal and saw Dockery raising a silver revolver. Officer 1 believed Dockery was about to shoot Officer 3 who was more towards the front of vehicle. Officer 1, believing that he and Officer 3 were in danger of serious bodily injury or death, fired at Dockery through the passenger window.

Officer 2 was aware Dockery was wanted and had received “officer safety” emails that Dockery was armed. Officer 2 was also aware that Dockery had claimed he would “shoot at cops” and not go back prison. Officer 2 was involved in the high-risk stop at Reservoir Road

and part of the ensuing pursuit ending in a “massive collision” at the gas station. He heard Officer 6 air that Dockery had a gun. He approached the vehicle at the carwash and heard officers giving commands to Dockery and then heard gunfire. As Officer 2 approached the rear of the vehicle, he saw Dockery get out of the driver’s side door and move quickly to the rear of the vehicle. Officer 2 believed Dockery to be a deadly threat to himself or others and fired until Dockery went to the ground.

Officer 3 was aware Dockery was wanted and GPD had a pending kidnapping case against him. Officer 3 received updates that Dockery was high and armed with a revolver. Officer 3 was involved in the high-risk traffic stop on Reservoir Road as a passenger in Officer 1’s car as well as the pursuit concluding in the collision and attempted carjacking. Officer 3 saw Dockery attempting to steal the vehicle at the car wash. As the officers approached, he saw Dockery raise a revolver to his own head, then saw Dockery redirect the revolver in Officer 3’s direction. Officer 3, fearing for his own life and Officer 1’s, who was to the left of him, fired at Dockery. Dockery fell out of the driver’s side door and Officer 3, after regaining visual of Dockery, saw him moving away from him and then Dockery started to turn back towards Officer 3. Officer 3, still in fear for his and other officers’ lives, fired at Dockery again.

Officer 4 was part of the call for the kidnapping charge on January 5, 2021 and was aware from the victim in that case the Dockery had made comments that he would not go back to prison and would get in a shootout with police. Officer 4 was aware that Dockery was armed and had committed a carjacking on I-25 earlier in the day on January 19, 2021. Officer 4 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop on Reservoir Road as well as the pursuit ending at the gas station and car wash. When he approached the vehicle, the windows already had bullet holes, he saw Dockery outside the car moving towards him. Officer 2 was shooting at Dockery and Dockery was not stopping. Officer 4 was in fear for his life, Officer 2’s life, and the owner of the car Dockery was attempting to steal so he fired at Dockery.

Officer 5 was aware Dockery was wanted for a kidnapping and that he was armed. Officer 5 knew Dockery had carjacked a car at gunpoint on I-25 on January 19, 2021. Officer 5 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop and the ensuing pursuit on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue culminating in the crash and attempted carjacking. Officer 5 witnessed the crash and saw officers pursuing Dockery to the south of the gas station. He heard someone yelling “he’s got a gun.” He saw officers surrounding a vehicle at the car wash and heard gun shots as he got out of his patrol car. The initial shots did not stop Dockery, he saw Dockery get out of the driver’s seat and move to the rear of the vehicle. Officer 5 believed Dockery to be a deadly threat to himself, other officers, and citizens in the area so he fired at him.

Officer 6 was aware that Dockery was wanted and armed with a handgun. He was aware of the carjacking at gunpoint on I-25 earlier in the day on January 19, 2021. Officer 6 was involved in the attempted high-risk stop on Reservoir Road and the pursuit. He saw Dockery crash at the gas station, he then saw Dockery running to south holding a revolver to his head. He saw him enter the driver’s seat of a car at the car wash. As he approached, he heard officers giving commands to Dockery. When he was approximately 15 yards away, he saw Dockery bring the gun up with his right hand and begin to point the gun towards Officers 3 and 6. Fearing for both of their lives, Officer 6 fired at Dockery. Dockery then exited the car and had a gun in his hand. Fearing that Dockery would shoot the officers near the rear of the vehicle, Officer 6 fired again until Dockery went down.

Dockery would have clearly known that the individuals giving him commands were police officers. Even though there were two officers in plain clothes and an unmarked police car, there were numerous officers in uniform and marked cars following Dockery from the attempted high risk stop at Reservoir Road and ultimately surrounding him as he was attempting to steal the vehicle at the car wash behind the gas station.

Law enforcement was attempting to arrest Dockery for a myriad of crimes involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon. At the point officers shot Dockery, he was attempting his fourth carjacking of the day on January 19, 2021.

Officer 1 through 6 reasonably believed when they fired their weapon that they, other officers, or citizens were in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury.

Based on the facts gathered during this investigation as summarized in the attached report and the legal analysis outlined above, I find that Officers 1 through 6 were justified in using lethal force against Dockery. The use of such force was reasonable based on Dockery's threatened use of deadly physical force against both civilians and law enforcement officers, as well as the extreme danger to the community caused by his behaviors.

## **CONCLUSION**

Under C.R.S. § 18-1-707, the officers' actions in this situation were justified and authorized by law to defend and protect themselves and others from the lawless and threatening actions of Christopher Dockery. As a result, the Weld County District Attorney's Office will not file charges against Officers 1 through 6 for the use of deadly physical force in this event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Rourke  
District Attorney



*Officer Involved Shooting*

*January 19, 2021*

*Investigator Wendy Steward*

*Subject: Christopher Dockery*

21DA00006 – Weld County District Attorney's Office

21G004885 – Greeley Police primary case number

21G004894 – Greeley Police Mead AOA

21G004892 - Greeley Police Drug Task Force

21W002484 – Weld County Sheriff's Office CIRT

21W002450 – Weld County Sheriff's Office Mead AOA

21-189 – Erie Police CIRT

3A 21-0088 – Colorado State Patrol Mead

21EP001049 – Evans Police AOA

21WP001165 – Windsor Police CIRT

21ML00416 – Mead Police Robbery

## Summary

On 011921, information was provided to the Weld County Drug Task Force (WCDTF) by a confidential informant that wanted fugitive and parolee, Christopher Dockery, was in the company of Kim Gutierrez at the Heritage Inn in Evans, Weld County, Colorado. Additional information was provided that Dockery was armed with a handgun and driving a blue Subaru Forester. The WCDTF, assisted by Parole, and other officers with the Greeley Police Department conducted surveillance of Dockery, ultimately losing visual on I-25 near Mead, CO.

A short time later, the blue Subaru Forester was involved in a traffic accident with two other vehicles near mile marker 243 in Mead, CO. WCDTF Investigators contacted Dockery and identified themselves as law enforcement, giving him orders at gunpoint. Dockery did not follow their orders and fled on foot east across I-25, ultimately carjacking an elderly couple at gunpoint and making away from the scene in their red Subaru Forester.

Dockery returned to Greeley in the red Subaru and was initially spotted traveling at a high rate of speed, eastbound on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Surveillance was temporarily lost; however, the vehicle was located a short time later, unoccupied, in the 1700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The address of 1729 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue was known to WCDTF units as a house associated to regular narcotics activity. Surveillance was conducted at that address and officers observed a blue 4-runner pull into the driveway and a male positively identified as Dockery entered the passenger side of the 4-runner.

A high-risk traffic stop was attempted on the 4-runner. The driver stopped and exited the vehicle, however, Dockery moved over to the driver's seat and sped away from the traffic stop. A pursuit ensued and Dockery attempted an east bound turn onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Street from 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, however, was traveling too fast to effectively negotiate the turn. Dockery lost control of the vehicle, traveling down an embankment, and crashing into another vehicle in the parking lot of the Loaf and Jug at 3200 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Evans, CO.

Dockery exited the vehicle and attempted to carjack a couple in the parking lot of the gas station, however, was unsuccessful. He fled east on foot with a gun in his hand, towards the car wash located at 2150 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Evans, CO. Dockery menaced a citizen who was vacuuming his vehicle out from the backseat passenger side, ultimately entering the driver's seat of that vehicle in an apparent attempt to steal the car and abscond. Dockery was quickly confronted by Greeley Police officers who gave him commands. Dockery raised the gun up and six total police officers fired their weapons in his direction. After an initial volley of fire, Dockery exited the vehicle, dropping his gun and subsequently picking it back up. Officers fired at Dockery again, ultimately killing him.

## Preceding Incidents leading up to January 19, 2021

20G103096

On December 26, 2020, Greeley Police officers were dispatched to 2924 11<sup>th</sup> Street Road in reference to a burglary in progress. Reporting party, Mica Turner, told police she was downstairs in her bedroom when her ex-boyfriend, Christopher Dockery came to her window and started

kicking it attempting to gain entry. The investigation determined that Dockery resided at the address, however after forcing entry stole a DVR containing surveillance footage of his break-in, and a gray and white pit bull puppy belonging to Turner. A warrant request was completed for Dockery for the charges of Theft and Criminal Mischief – Domestic Violence. An email was sent to all sworn Greeley officers notifying them that probable cause existed for Dockery's arrest on the aforementioned charges.

21G000958

On January 5, 2021, an incident in the City of Greeley led to the issuance of an arrest warrant for Dockery for Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery and Felony Menacing, which was signed by a District Court Judge in Weld County. Notification of the warrant for Dockery's arrest was disseminated to all Greeley Police officers.

21G001722

On January 7, 2021, officers with the Greeley Police Department Special Enforcement Team (SET) were conducting surveillance in an attempt to locate and arrest Dockery on his outstanding arrest warrant and the probable cause domestic violence case. Dockery was identified as driving a gold sedan with stolen license plates. Surveillance was conducted as he pulled into an apartment complex and parked. Officers converged on Dockery in an attempt to arrest him, however, Dockery put the vehicle into reverse and rammed into a SET officer's vehicle. He subsequently drove over a parking barrier and crashed into a stairwell for the apartment complex. Dockery was able to maneuver the vehicle backwards and then proceeded to drive down a sidewalk, through a median and out to a main road where he fled and was not located.

### Weld County Drug Task Force – Initial Information and Surveillance

On 011921 at approximately 1052 hours, an investigator with the Weld County Drug Task Force received a text from a previously reliable confidential informant (CI) who advised Dockery was "right here" at "the Heritage" with "some girl Kim" and "going to leave soon." "Kim" was later identified as Kim Gutierrez. Being aware of Dockery's outstanding warrants, the investigator and others with WCDTF responded to the area. The investigator was familiar with "the Heritage" as being the Heritage Inn, 3301 W Service Road, Evans, CO, and identified it as an area plagued with criminal activity.

At 1121, the CI texted the investigator an update that Dockery was leaving wearing an orange mask and red hoodie. A second WCDTF investigator observed a male matching the description exit the Heritage Inn with a female and enter a blue Subaru Forester bearing Colorado license plate BERV45. Investigators were familiar with this vehicle because it had been identified in an email to sworn Greeley police officers early that day as a vehicle associated to Dockery.





*Surveillance photograph of Dockery leaving the Heritage Inn*

Investigators spoke to the CI via telephone while conducting surveillance on the blue Subaru. The CI told Investigators that he/she had seen a revolver style handgun laying on the bed in the room Dockery had been in and that he/she believed the revolver belonged to Dockery. The CI further advised that Dockery was high, most likely on methamphetamine, and that it was believed he was going to Denver to meet with a source of supply for cocaine. The CI reported that Dockery made a comment that he would not go back to jail.

Dockery led task force officers around Greeley and Evans for several hours, driving erratically. During that time, they were able to positively identify the driver of the blue Subaru as wanted fugitive, Christopher Dockery. Eventually, Dockery began travelling southbound on Highway 85 into the area of Platteville. Dockery traveled west on a county road, eventually heading south on I-25.



*This photograph shows the blue Subaru Forester Dockery was originally seen driving away from the Heritage Inn on 011921.*

### I-25 Traffic Accident and Aggravated Robbery

Task Force Investigators were surveilling Dockery in the blue Subaru southbound on I-25 when at approximately mile marker 244 (Mead), Dockery was involved in a traffic collision with a white Chevrolet truck, causing Dockery's vehicle to spin so that it was facing northbound in the southbound lanes. Dockery and his female passenger, Kim Gutierrez, exited the vehicle and began pushing it off the roadway.

Dockery approached an investigator, who was wearing plain clothes and in an unmarked police vehicle, asking him for assistance in pushing the blue Subaru to the side of the road. The investigator refused and instructed Dockery to get back into his vehicle, however, did not initially identify himself as law enforcement. The investigator did not see a handgun in Dockery's possession, nor did he identify any bulges on Dockery's person that would be consistent with a firearm. After returning briefly to the blue Subaru for clothing, Dockery reapproached the investigator, this time in the company of Kim Gutierrez.

The Task Force Investigator exited his vehicle with his badge displayed around his neck, and his duty handgun drawn and pointed at Dockery. The investigator gave Dockery commands, calling him by name and instructing him to get on the ground and not go for his gun. There was only four to five feet between them as Dockery pushed Gutierrez out of his way and ran southbound. A second WCDTF investigator had arrived on scene and Dockery was running straight towards him. This second investigator presented his handgun and pointed it at Dockery, identifying himself as law enforcement, causing Dockery to change the direction of his flight.

Dockery ran eastbound across the southbound lanes of I-25, jumped the cable dividing barrier and ran into the northbound lanes of travel, where cars were traveling at approximately 70-80 miles per hour. Dockery was waving his hands trying to get a vehicle to stop, slowing traffic.

Dockery made multiple unsuccessful attempts to open the doors of vehicles, ultimately succeeding with a red Subaru occupied by an elderly couple and bearing Colorado license plate DJD160. Investigators saw Dockery throw the elderly male driver to the pavement, and then push an elderly female out of the passenger side as he drove away. Due to the southbound position of surveillance units, Dockery was able to abscond northbound on I-25. Information regarding the traffic accident and carjacking were aired via the radio and officers from the Mead Police Department, as well as Colorado Highway Patrol responded.



*This photo is of the 2018 Subaru Forester owned by the Ritchhart's that Dockery stole at gunpoint on I-25.*

The occupants of the red Subaru were identified as Joanne (age 82) and Delbert Ritchhart (age 83). Joanne told police they were traveling northbound on I-25 when traffic slowed, and her husband was forced to slam on the brakes. A man (Dockery) appeared in front of their car holding a gun to his head, and subsequently pointed the gun at her husband while approaching the driver's door yelling "Get out! Get out!" Joanne's husband exited the vehicle, but as she was still trying to exit, the male with the gun (Dockery) stepped on the gas and the momentum sent her tumbling out and onto the shoulder. Joanne sustained minor injuries to her back and articulated being in fear for her life.

Delbert told police he was driving northbound on I-25 when the vehicles in front of him came to a sudden stop, causing him to slam on his brakes to avoid a collision. He saw a white male (Dockery), approximately 28 years old, who looked angry. The male (Dockery) approached Delbert's vehicle on foot with a gun to his own head, however, subsequently redirected the gun to Delbert, pointing it directly at him through the front windshield, yelling at Delbert to "Get out, get out!" Delbert exited the vehicle on his own and the male jumped into the driver's seat of his vehicle and sped off.



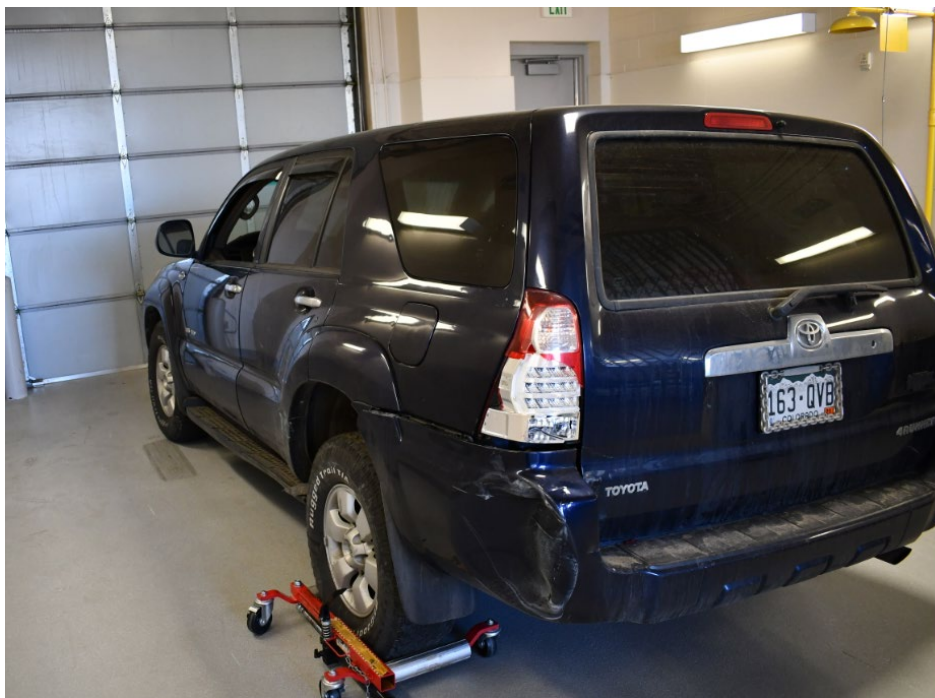
### Surveillance - 1729 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Greeley detectives received the update regarding Dockery now traveling in a stolen red Subaru and were responding to the Johnstown area where he had last been seen, when they spotted a red Subaru eastbound on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Greeley at a high rate of speed. Due to the speed of the vehicle and traffic, they were unable to maintain surveillance of the vehicle.

Officers and detectives flooded the area in an attempt to locate the vehicle and a short time later, WCDTF Investigators aired on the radio that he had located the target vehicle, now unoccupied, in the 1700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Officers began maintaining electronic and physical surveillance of the location. At approximately 1428 hours, a blue 4Runner was observed arriving at the residence. A male, positively identified by surveillance units as Dockery, entered the passenger seat and moments later, the vehicle was observed leaving the residence.

### Attempted High Risk Traffic Stop - 1600 Block Reservoir Road

Physical surveillance was maintained on the 4Runner after it departed 1729 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At approximately 1433 hours, Greeley Police officers activated their lights and sirens to affect a high risk stop of the vehicle in the 1600 block of Reservoir Road. Officers were able to see a scuffle between Dockery and the driver, later identified as Kenneth Nicholson. Ultimately, Nicholson was pushed out of the car. As police were giving Nicholson commands, Dockery jumped from the passenger seat to the driver's seat and sped away from the traffic stop, westbound on Reservoir Road in Nicholson's 4Runner.



*This photograph was taken during the processing of the Toyota 4Runner that Dockery stole which registers to Ken Nicholson.*

A post incident interview with Nicholson revealed the following information: Nicholson drives for Doordash and through that employment, has met people whom he sometimes provides rides to, as a “side gig”. One of those people is a female he knows only as “Dreamer.”

On 011921, Nicholson received a text from “Dreamer” indicating she needed a ride, so he went to her house located at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Greeley. When he arrived, “Dreamer” asked him to pull through the gate, however he refused. “Dreamer” and her boyfriend escorted a male out to Nicholson whom they introduced as their “homeboy Chris” (Dockery). Dockery told Nicholson he needed to go to Madison and 6<sup>th</sup> in Loveland.

Nicholson had just entered the location into his phone GPS and made a turn onto 20<sup>th</sup> Street (Reservoir Road) when he saw blue lights behind him. Nicholson was pulling his vehicle over when Dockery instructed him to “Go! Go!” Nicholson told Dockery “f\_\_\_ that dude” and put the vehicle in park. Dockery was trying to push Nicholson out, but Nicholson held on to the steering wheel and door jamb trying to prevent his vehicle from being stolen. It was at that point Dockery presented a handgun and told Nicholson he would shoot him. Dockery then proceeded to kick Nicholson in the back, effectively pushing him out of the vehicle. At the time of the interview, Nicholson had redness on the right side of his torso and a shoe print on the back of his shirt consistent with his statement.



*Shoeprint on the back of Nicholson’s right shoulder from being kicked from his vehicle by Dockery*



## Pursuit - Vehicle Crash - Attempted Aggravated Robbery

A police pursuit immediately ensued as Dockery fled the traffic stop westbound on Reservoir Road. Upon reaching 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Dockery turned southbound travelling at a high rate of speed and driving into oncoming traffic, displaying a willful and wanton disregard for his own safety and the safety of others.



*In this google earth image, you can see the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, as well as the Loaf 'N Jug at 3200 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Evans, CO and the Wash Me! Car Wash at 2150 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Evans, CO.*

Dockery attempted to make an eastbound turn onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, however, was travelling too fast to effectively negotiate the turn. Dockery travelled southeast at approximately a 45-degree angle from the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, barreling down a grass embankment at the northwest corner of the Loaf and Jug located at 3200 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Evans, CO. Dockery then struck an SUV parked perpendicular to the gas station near the front doors.



*In this drone crime scene photograph, you can see the crash in front of the Loaf 'N Jug, 3200 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The top of the photograph shows the 2200 block of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Evans, CO.*

Dockery immediately exited the vehicle and approached the driver's side of a BMW sedan parked at the Loaf 'N Jug. On the surveillance footage from the gas station, Dockery can be seen approaching the driver's side of the BMW with what appears to be a gun in his right hand. He can be seen striking the glass of the driver's side window and subsequently opening the driver's side door. There appears to be a struggle between the driver and Dockery as Dockery leans into the vehicle. Within seconds, the driver can be seen exiting the vehicle and running away, ultimately uniting with the passenger of his vehicle on the sidewalk directly in front of the store. Dockery attempted to steal the BMW, however, was unsuccessful and exits the vehicle, fleeing southbound on foot, still holding what appears to be a handgun in his right hand.

The owners/occupants of the BMW refused to cooperate with the police investigation into the attempted robbery.

### Attempted Aggravated Robbery - 2150 32<sup>nd</sup> Street

Dockery ran around the south side of the Loaf 'N Jug in a southeast direction towards the Wash Me! Car Wash located at 2150 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Evans, CO. Three vacuum stations are located on the south end of the car wash. Steven Ryno's 2012 Nissan Altima was backed into the western most vacuum station. His driver's side door was ajar and Ryno was vacuuming out the passenger side back seat floorboard. Dockery pointed the gun at Ryno and subsequently ran around the front of Ryno's vehicle and entered the driver's seat, attempting to steal the vehicle. Officers confronted Dockery in the driver's seat of Ryno's vehicle, firing at him. Dockery exited the vehicle still holding



the pistol in his hand and police fired at him again, ultimately fatally wounding him. A total of six officers discharged their weapons at Dockery.

Ryno was initially taken into custody as his involvement was not known. He later provided the following statement at the Greeley Police Department. Ryno was vacuuming out the backseat passenger side of his vehicle when he heard a loud noise similar to a dumpster being emptied. He looked up but did not see anything that explained the noise. (From Ryno's position, Dockery's crash in the 4Runner would have not been visible because of the gas station.) Moments later, Ryno saw a male (Dockery) running towards him with a gun in his right hand. The gun was in front of Dockery's body and he began to raise it up in the direction of Ryno when he (Ryno) said something like "not today mother f\_\_\_er." Dockery ran around the front of Ryno's car and entered the driver's seat. He was pushing the start button trying to steal his car; however, the key fob was in Ryno's pocket which he believed must have been too far away from Dockery for the vehicle to operate. Ryno leaned into the backseat passenger side of his vehicle and began to try and physically remove Dockery from the driver's seat when suddenly, police officers were all around his vehicle yelling for Dockery to get out of the car.

Ryno never saw Dockery's gun again after Dockery entered the driver's seat of his vehicle and was unable to say if Dockery pointed the gun at police. Ryno described himself as still leaning into his vehicle when the police officers fired the first shots.



*This still shot from surveillance video shows Ryno (black shirt and white shorts) entering his backseat passenger side at the vacuums, seconds before Dockery runs up on foot and enters the vehicle. Spaedt can be seen leaning into the gold sedan on the right.*

## Officers' Statements

### *Officer #1*

Officer #1 was aware that Christopher Dockery was wanted and on parole. On 011921, he was monitoring radio updates on the apprehension efforts being made to arrest Dockery, receiving information that Dockery was high on drugs and carjacked a red Subaru at gunpoint on I-25. Officer #1 ultimately assisted with surveillance at the 1729 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue location, as well as the high risk stop and subsequent vehicle pursuit that led officers to the Loaf 'N Jug.



Officer #1 was driving an unmarked police vehicle and Officer #3 was riding with him. Officer #1 was wearing dress clothes, as he currently holds a plain clothes assignment. He was wearing an unmarked black jacket over a bullet proof vest at the time of his confrontation with Dockery. Officer #1 was carrying a 9-millimeter Glock handgun which is a standard issue weapon for a plain clothes assignment.

Officer #1 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf 'N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. Officer #1 saw the vehicle crash in front of the Loaf 'N Jug and after scanning the parking lot, did not see Dockery. Officer #1 turned in southbound between the gas station and the car wash, and saw Dockery running towards the self-service vacuums where a sedan was parked. Officer #1 exited his vehicle with his gun drawn and saw Dockery enter the driver's seat of the sedan. Officer #1 approached the sedan from the passenger side and saw Dockery raise a silver revolver. Officer #1 had an unobstructed view of Dockery through the front seat passenger window and believed based on the positioning of the revolver and Officer #3 (who was more towards the front of the sedan) that Dockery was about to shoot Officer #3. Believing that both he and Officer #3 were at risk of serious bodily injury or death, Officer #1 fired at Dockery through the passenger window.

After Officer #1's initial volley of gunfire, the glass "spidered", obstructing his view of Dockery. Officer #1 did not fire at Dockery again, because he could no longer identify a threat. Officer #1 estimated he fired five or six rounds, but a round count revealed he discharged a total of ten rounds.



*Photographs of Officer #1's weapon and round count post-shooting.*

## **Officer #2**

Officer #2 was aware that Dockery was wanted and had received several "officer safety" emails that Dockery was armed with a handgun and machete. Officer #2 knew that Dockery had made statements that he would shoot at cops and would not go back to prison.

Officer #2's primary assignment is as a patrol officer. He was wearing his standard patrol uniform which includes shoulder patches and a badge with a department issued gun belt with miscellaneous police gear. Officer #2 was carrying a .45 caliber Glock handgun issued by Greeley Police Department, as well as a .223 rifle with a 30-round magazine.

Officer #2 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf 'N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. He witnessed what he described

as a massive collision caused by Dockery in front of the Loaf 'N Jug and heard Officer #6 air that "He's got a gun." Officer #2 exited his marked patrol vehicle and ran south towards the car wash with his rifle. He heard other officers shouting commands and then heard a volley of gunfire prior to arriving at the rear of the vehicle which Dockery was occupying. Officer #2 saw Dockery exit the vehicle, moving quickly towards the rear of the vehicle. Officer #2 believed Dockery to be a deadly threat and felt fear of imminent harm to himself and/or others. He fired his rifle at Dockery until Dockery fell to the ground and was no longer a threat.

Officer #2 estimated he fired 5 to 6 rounds, however a round count revealed he discharged 11 rounds.



*Officer #2's weapon and round count post-shooting.*

### *Officer #3*

Officer #3 was aware that Dockery was wanted and that GPD Persons Crimes was working a kidnapping case against Dockery. Officer #3 was monitoring updates that Dockery was high on drugs and armed with a revolver. Officer #3 currently works in a plain clothes assignment, and therefore was wearing an external tactical bullet proof vest marked "Police" over his regular clothes. Officer #3 was armed with a Winchester .223 rifle, issued to him as part of his membership on the SWAT team. Officer #3 was a passenger in Officer #1's unmarked police vehicle.

Officer #3 and Officer #1 were involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf 'N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. Officer #1 drove on the east side of the Loaf 'N Jug and Dockery ran out in front of their car, and then over to a parked sedan. Officer #3 saw Dockery actively trying to steal the car. Officer #3 saw Dockery raise a revolver to his own head with his right hand, and believed he was going to commit suicide, however, Dockery then started to redirect the revolver in his (Officer #3's) direction. Officer #3 was in fear for his safety and life, as well as the safety and life of officer #1 who was to his left. Officer #3 estimated he fired approximately five rounds through the windshield. Dockery fell out of the car causing Officer #3 to temporarily lose sight of him. Dockery then stood up and took a step or two away from Officer #3 then started to turn back towards Officer #3. Officer #3,

still in fear for his life and the lives of other officers, fired at Dockery again, estimating he fired about five additional rounds. A round count revealed Officer #3 discharged 13 total rounds.



*Officer #3's weapon and round count post-shooting.*

#### *Officer #4*

Officer #4 responded to call for service a couple of weeks ago in which Dockery was the suspect in a kidnapping/felony menacing case. Through his involvement with that call, Officer #4 spoke with a victim who advised that Dockery had made comments that he would not be going back to prison and would likely get into a "shootout" with police. On 011921, Officer #4 heard updates on the radio that a confidential informant had provided information indicating Dockery had a gun "on his waist." Later in the day, Officer #4 learned that Dockery had carjacked a vehicle on I-25 at gunpoint.

Officer #4's primary assignment is as a patrol officer. He was wearing his standard patrol uniform which includes shoulder patches and a badge with a department issued gun belt with miscellaneous police gear. Officer #4 was carrying a .45 caliber Glock handgun issued by Greeley Police Department.

Officer #4 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf 'N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. Officer #4 approached the parked car at the car wash and saw bullet holes in the front windshield. He saw a heavy-set Hispanic male citizen (Ryno) but was unable to see anything inside the vehicle. Officer #4 then saw Dockery, who he recognized from BOLO (be on the lookout) photographs, outside of the car and moving towards him. Officer #2 was shooting at Dockery, but Dockery was not stopping. Officer #4 was in fear of serious bodily injury or death for both himself, Officer #2 and Ryno. Officer #4 fired his weapon at Dockery, who subsequently went to the ground. He did not give Dockery any commands.

Officer #4 estimated he fired 3 to 5 rounds and a round count confirmed he discharged 3 rounds.



*Officer #4's weapon and round count post-shooting.*

### **Officer #5**

Officer #5 was aware that Dockery had been wanted in a kidnapping case for several weeks and that he was armed. Officer #5's primary assignment is patrol and therefore, he was wearing his standard patrol uniform which includes shoulder patches and a badge with a department issued gun belt with miscellaneous police gear. Officer #2 was carrying a 9-millimeter Glock handgun issued by Greeley Police Department.

On 011921, Officer #5 learned that Dockery had stolen a car at gunpoint on I-25 and fled north towards Greeley. Officer #5 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf 'N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. Officer #5 witnessed the traffic crash caused by Dockery in the parking lot of the Loaf 'N Jug and saw officers in foot pursuit towards the south of the building, hearing "He's got a gun! He's got a gun!" Officer #5 was concerned for the safety of citizens in the area and feared what Dockery might do. Officer #5 saw officers surrounding a vehicle, as he exited his patrol vehicle, and heard gunfire erupt as he approached the vehicle. The initial shots fired by other officers did not stop Dockery. Officer #5 saw Dockery get out of the driver's seat and move towards the back of the vehicle. Officer #5 believed Dockery to be a deadly threat to himself, citizens in the area, as well as other officers, so he fired his weapon at him. Dockery subsequently fell to the ground.

Officer # 5 estimated he fired two rounds at Dockery. A round count confirmed that Officer #5 discharged two rounds.



*Officer #5's weapon and round count post-shooting.*



## *Officer #6*

Officer #6 was familiar with Dockery and that he had been “on the run” from the police for the last few months, armed with a handgun. On 011921, Officer #6 learned that Dockery had committed an armed carjacking on I-25, presenting a revolver. Officer #6’s primary assignment is as a patrol officer. He was wearing his standard patrol uniform which includes shoulder patches and a badge with a department issued gun belt with miscellaneous police gear. Officer #6 was carrying a personally owned (but department qualified) .45 caliber Sig Sauer 1911, which holds an 8-round magazine with one in the chamber.

Officer #6 was involved in the attempted high-risk traffic stop, as well as the vehicle pursuit, which culminated at the Loaf ‘N Jug/Wash Me! Car Wash in Evans, CO. Officer #6 witnessed the car crash in front of the Loaf ‘N Jug and sees Dockery with a black revolver held to his head, running south towards the car wash. Dockery entered the driver’s seat of a vehicle parked at the car wash and Officer #6 heard other officers giving Dockery commands, though he did not give any himself. Officer #6 was approximately 15 yards away when he saw Dockery bring the gun up with his right hand. Dockery began to point the gun towards Officer #6 and Officer #3. Fearing for both their lives, Officer #6 fired, firing all nine rounds in his magazine and reloading. Dockery then exited the vehicle and Officer #6 saw the gun in his hand. Fearing that Dockery would shoot the officers at the rear of the vehicle, Officer #6 fired again until Dockery went down.

Officer #6 estimated he fired 17 rounds total. A round count showed Officer #6 discharged 18 rounds.



*Officer #6's weapon and round count post-shooting.*



*Still shot from surveillance video that shows the positioning of responding officers during the initial volley of gunfire.*



*Still shot from surveillance video that shows the positioning of responding officers during the 2<sup>nd</sup> volley of gunfire.*

### Witness - James Spaedt

James Spaedt was vacuuming his vehicle out at the vacuum station directly east of where Ryno was parked. Spaedt had just put money into the vacuum and was cleaning out his center console. He heard police sirens but initially ignored them. Spaedt then heard the police shouting commands but was not able to tell exactly what they were saying because the vacuum was so loud. When the shots were fired, Spaedt initially believed he was being shot at and was scared. Spaedt later told police he could tell “he (Dockery) wasn’t doin’ what they said.”

### Physical Evidence

After Dockery was down, he was secured in handcuffs. Underneath his torso, officers located a Ruger 357 Magnum revolver. It was quickly determined Dockery displayed no signs of life. When Dockery’s gun was processed, it was learned there was one round in the cylinder, which was positioned as next in line if the trigger had been pulled.



*This still shot from body worn camera footage shows the moment when Dockery is rolled over, revealing the gun underneath him.*





*Evidence photographs of Dockery's gun and a close up of the round in the cylinder.*

There were three officers who had body worn camera footage during the actual shooting: Officer #1, Officer #3 and Officer #5. Officer #2's body worn camera was activated, however it was knocked off his body as he exited his vehicle before the shooting. Officer #4's body worn camera was activated just after Dockery was down and Officer #6's body worn camera was not activated.



*A still shot taken from a slowed down version of Officer #1's body worn camera footage shows Dockery raising the gun up in the direction of Officer #3, just before the first shots were fired.*



Surveillance footage from the Loaf 'N Jug captured the end of the vehicle pursuit, Dockery's crash into the parked car, and his attempted carjacking of the BMW in front of the store. Surveillance footage from the Wash Me! Car Wash captured Dockery's attempted carjacking of Ryno's vehicle, as well as the approach of the officers and subsequent shooting.



*Though grainy, in this still shot from the Loaf 'N Jug surveillance video, you can see the crashed 4Runner on the right, and Dockery in the process of attempting to carjack the BMW, with the gun in his hand.*



*In this still shot from surveillance video, you can see Dockery running southeast bound between the Loaf 'N Jug and the car wash, with the gun in his right hand.*



*In this still shot from the car wash surveillance video, you can see Dockery about to enter the driver's seat of Ryno's Nissan Altima with a revolver in his right hand. The person in the plaid shirt leaning into the other vehicle is Spaedt.*

## Facebook



Remembering  
**Gee Stokes**

*Dockery's Facebook profile picture – Dockery far left and center inset*

The post-incident investigation revealed Dockery to have a Facebook account under the name Gee Stokes. A message sent by Dockery on 010721 indicated he wanted the receiver of his message to be at his funeral and that she should get some of his ashes from his mom and take them to the “that spot” on the river. A message sent to the same recipient four days later on 011121 reads, “I’m going out this world when the cops find me. Believe me don’t believe me but I love you I miss you. I think about you everyday. My heart is with you. I wanted to come and say goodbye but I don’t want to fight with you or get shot to death yet. I got to get out. I will always love you.” Dockery continued, “My life is over. I’m sad that this is where it ends.....tell we meet again in the stars of heaven bang bang.” About half an hour later on the same date, Dockery sent this message to the same recipient, “One day, I hope you can understand y I would rather die then spend one more day in a cell.”

### Post-Incident Interviews

#### *Jody Vargo*

Members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) interviewed Dockery’s mother, Jody Vargo. Jody immediately assumed that Dockery was dead because the police were contacting her. She was vaguely aware of his recent troubles with the police and said that Dockery will not come around her because he knows she will turn him in. Jody last spoke to Dockery 2-3 days prior, when he called her from a blocked number. Jody described Dockery as “out of his mind” and said she has been worried that he would kill someone. Jody said Dockery was adamant that he “wasn’t going back to prison.”

#### *Gabrielle “Gabby” Dockery*

Gabby is Dockery’s wife, though she had not seen him since the day the police surrounded her house looking for him, which she estimated to have been about ten days prior. That day, Dockery told her he had “f\_\_\_\_\_ up really bad” but would not elaborate further. Gabby was aware that whatever Dockery was running from was related to Mica Turner and said she believed they were using heroin together. Gabby identified Dockery as a member of Gallant Knights Insane (GKI) but told officers he had “walked away” from the gang.

#### *Mica Turner (AKA Mica Osbourne)*

Turner was extremely hesitant to speak with CIRT officers and requested confirmation that Dockery was dead before providing a statement, stating that if she talked to police and Dockery wasn’t dead, her life would be at stake. After Dockery’s death was confirmed, Turner said she had been with Dockery on and off the last few days. She described him holding her against her will, threatening to kill her with a “hot shot” of heroin, and multiple incidents in which he pointed his gun at her. Turner told police Dockery had been in high speed pursuits with the police, and even described him stabbing a “kid” at a 7/11 near Denver because he (the “kid”) told Turner she could do better.

Dockery last pointed his gun at her the night before (011821). Turner described it as silver with a wood grain handle which bore an emblem. That night, Dockery accused her of being a “rat” and calling the police. Dockery was trying to cut off Turner’s ankle monitor, because he believed they



were tracking him by it. Turner was screaming for him not to cut it off and Dockery pointed the gun at her head and told her to “shut the f\_\_\_\_\_ up”. Dockery demanded Turner take off all her clothes so she could prove she wasn’t wearing a wire, which she did. Once she was totally naked, Dockery grabbed her by her hair and pushed her outside, where he locked her out in the cold. He left her out there while he went through her phone and eventually let her back in, putting the gun in her mouth and again accusing her of being a rat. Turner woke up the next morning as Dockery was leaving with Kim Gutierrez. Before he left, Dockery told Turner, “Today is the day.” Turner clarified it was her understanding that Dockery was saying today is the day “he kills himself or makes the cops kill him.”

### Gang Involvement and Criminal History

Dockery has previously been identified as a career criminal by the Greeley Police Department. Dockery was on parole for felony convictions in both Weld County (11CR57 and 19CR1427) and Larimer County (17CR2662 and 19CR1138). At the time of this incident, Dockery was wanted for kidnapping, menacing and aggravated robbery. In addition, there was an active parole violation warrant, and probable cause existed for the arrest of Dockery for theft and criminal mischief.

The Colorado Department of Corrections identified Dockery as a member of the Gallant Knights Insane (GKI). Dockery has previously admitted his membership with GKI to Greeley Police. His aliases include “X,” “G Stuck,” “Gee Stokes” and “Rider.” Dockery’s body was extensively tattooed, as evidenced in both Colorado Department of Corrections mugshot and autopsy photographs. These included the initials for his gang across his abdomen; the letter “I” within this tattoo was crossed out, denoting the gang’s rivalry with Inca Boys. On his back was a knight’s helmet with the letter “G” and a large shield with the numbers 7, 11 and 9 (GKI). Listed on the shield was a list of monikers, which Greeley Police Gang Detective Prill suspects is a roll call of fellow GKI members.

### Autopsy

At autopsy, forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Burson, determined Dockery sustained 18 gunshot wounds and was unable to determine which shot would have been fatal. The following is a breakdown of the location of the gunshot wounds sustained by Dockery and detailed in the autopsy report by Dr. Burson:

1. Head and neck – five gunshot wounds, including one to the jaw and a graze wound of the nose
2. Torso – eleven gunshot wounds
3. Extremities – two gunshot wounds

Postmortem blood toxicology revealed 41 ng of amphetamine which is a Schedule II CNS stimulant used therapeutically in the treatment of narcolepsy and obesity in adults. Also identified in Dockery’s toxicology analysis was 420 ng of methamphetamine, a DEA Schedule II stimulant drug capable of causing hallucinations, aggressive behavior and irrational reactions.

Dockery's blood also contained 300 ng of benzoylecgonine, which is an inactive metabolite and chemical breakdown product of cocaine, a DEA Schedule II controlled central nervous stimulant drug, which can cause euphoria, excitement, restlessness, risk taking, sleep disturbance and aggression.

### Conclusion

All available body worn camera footage and surveillance footage was reviewed at length and found to be consistent with both officer and witness statements regarding the incident, as well as physical evidence collected at the scene.

The investigation supports that at the time of his demise, Dockery was wanted on a parole violation warrant, a kidnapping/menacing/aggravated robbery warrant, as well as probable cause for a theft/criminal mischief domestic violence case. Because of his fugitive status, as well as his recent propensity for violence, significant efforts were being made to locate and arrest him for the safety of the community at large.

Leading up to January 19, 2021, Dockery had made it well known to others that he was not going back to prison and intended to end his life via a violent encounter with the police. On the day of this incident alone, Dockery used a firearm to steal two vehicles, unsuccessfully attempted two additional armed carjackings, and led police on a high-speed chase ending in a significant crash.

Dockery was in the process of trying to steal a Nissan when officers approached him. Dockery raised his gun in the direction of officers, presenting a lethal threat. Three officers fired at Dockery as he sat in the driver's seat of the Nissan, and five officers (which included 2 of the original 3) fired at him as he exited the vehicle with his gun. Each officer articulated fear of imminent bodily injury or death for either themselves, other officers or civilians in the area.

The post incident investigation revealed awareness by Dockery's mother, wife and girlfriend that Dockery had been on a recent crime spree, assisted by his regular use of illegal narcotics. They corroborated information that Dockery had no intention of being captured alive and therefore returning to prison. A review of police reports involving Dockery in the weeks before his demise confirmed his crime spree and post-mortem toxicology analysis confirmed Dockery's use of controlled substances which likely contributed to his behavior.