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August 22, 2025

Chief Adam Turk
Greeley Police Department
2875 W. 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80634

RE: Investigation of the June 18, 2025 Officer-Involved Shooting of Theodore Rybus

Chief Turk:

The investigation into the shooting of Theodore Rybus has been completed by the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). Applying the facts from the investigation to applicable Colorado law, criminal charges will not be filed against the officers. 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.

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 or attempted 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 Theodore Rybus was shot by law enforcement and then took his own life with a firearm, the determination of whether the officers' 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.

Further, law enforcement officers are afforded the protections of self-defense that every citizen may claim pursuant to **C.R.S. § 18-1-704**.

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 Rybus 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 them or another person with a deadly weapon.

In this case, Greeley Police officers were attempting to locate and arrest Rybus for active warrants in pending felony and misdemeanor cases. Officers located Rybus driving a Buick and attempted to contact him. He fled from officers, parked the car, and then fled on foot through the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) campus. Officers caught up with Rybus on the campus and observed he was armed with a handgun threatening to kill himself. After being given multiple commands by police, Rybus continued to flee through the campus towards an area with multiple civilians, still armed with handgun. Fearing for the safety of others on the campus, Officers Cronquist and Vasquez fired rounds at Rybus. Cronquist fired three rounds and Vasquez fired one round. One of the rounds struck Rybus in his back. Rybus then shot himself in the head with his firearm and died from this self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Rybus was clearly aware that the officers were pursuing him from when he initially fled Officer Douglas in the Buick. Officer Douglas was in an unmarked blue pick-up, however, the emergency lights and sirens were activated. Further, multiple officers were in uniform giving him commands as fled through the campus.

Officers reasonably believed when they fired their weapons that bystanders on the campus 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 Cronquist and Vasquez were justified when they discharged their firearms and shot Rybus. The use of such force was reasonable based on Rybus's threatened use of deadly physical force.

CONCLUSION

Under C.R.S. § 18-1-707 and 18-1-704, the actions of Officers Cronquist and Vasquez were justified and authorized by law to defend and protect innocent bystanders from the threatening actions of Theodore Rybus. As a result, the Weld County District Attorney's Office will not file charges against the Officers for discharging their firearms during this event.

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

Sincerely,



Michael J. Rourke
District Attorney



Officer Involved Shooting

Theodore Lee Rybus ~ Final Report

Investigator Wendy Steward

Weld County District Attorney's Office – 25DA00155
Windsor Police Department – 2503218
Greeley Police Department – 25G008990
University of Northern Colorado Police Department - 2501603
Weld County Sheriff's Office – 25W003290
LaSalle Police Department – 25LP00949
Hudson Police Department – HP2500873
Severance Police Department – 25SV00204
Lochbuie Police Department – 25LO00715

SUMMARY

This officer involved shooting (OIS) investigation was conducted by the Nineteenth Judicial District's Critical Incident Response Team (C.I.R.T.) and involves members of the Greeley Police Department (GPD) patrol division, as well as their Special Enforcement Team (S.E.T.). The S.E.T. is categorized as a specialized assignment, meaning it is the primary duty of those assigned to it. S.E.T. is comprised of six officers and one sergeant who are tasked with apprehending wanted fugitives; prioritizing investigations and interventions aimed at apprehending individuals who have been identified as career criminals and concentrating efforts on crimes identified as high-priority target crimes, based on their impact to public safety and community well-being.

In June of 2025, Greeley Police received a crime tip regarding Theodore Rybus. The tip included information regarding Rybus's felony warrant and suggested his association to both a tan Buick and an address in Greeley, 1109 18th Street #3. Members of S.E.T. confirmed Rybus had an active warrant and obtained historical information that he had previously been pulled over on a traffic stop and cooperated with law enforcement.

On June 18, 2025, S.E.T. conducted surveillance at the provided address and located a tan Buick consistent with the information provided in the crime tip. Officer Douglas (S.E.T.), driving an unmarked Chevrolet Silverado, activated the emergency lights and siren in his vehicle and attempted a traffic stop on the tan Buick at 8:12 p.m.; the vehicle failed to yield and took off at a high rate of speed. The driver of the Buick was believed to be Rybus.



Google earth image showing the address associated to Rybus – 1109 18th Street, Greeley, CO

Approximately four minutes later, Officer Cronquist (S.E.T.) aired on the radio that Rybus was on foot on the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) campus. A foot pursuit ensued and at 8:20 p.m., it was aired that Rybus had a gun and was not complying with officer commands to drop it. During this encounter with officers, Rybus put the gun to his head and verbally threatened suicide. Rybus continued to flee from officers with the gun in his hand, towards an area of campus where innocent bystanders were. In fear for the safety of others, Cronquist fired three rounds at Rybus. Officer Vasquez (patrol) fired one round at Rybus. One of the rounds fired by officers lodged in Rybus's lower spine. After being shot, Rybus put his own gun to his head and fired one round, killing himself. An autopsy later determined the police round that struck Rybus's spine would have caused mobility issues but was not a fatal round. The death was ruled a suicide from a self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

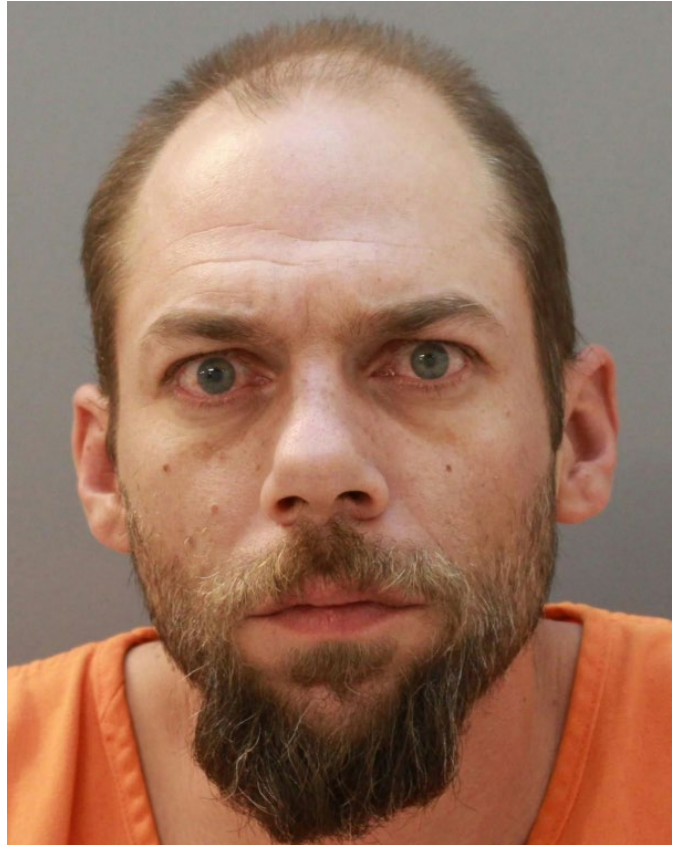
HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Theodore Lee Rybus was born on October 5, 1983. He was approximately six feet tall and one hundred fifty pounds. He had brown hair and blue eyes. Rybus went by Ted, Teddy or Teddy Bear and has numerous tattoos on his body including several references to teddy bear. Rybus's criminal history included shoplifting, distribution of marijuana, multiple assault charges and possession of a stolen vehicle. His first arrest occurred in 1996 when he was thirteen years old.

Rybus's last known address is 1109 18th Street #3, Greeley, Colorado. This is the home of Coral DaSilva, who also owned the tan Buick Rybus fled from police in. DaSilva told C.I.R.T. investigators that she met Rybus in October of 2024, and described their relationship as platonic. DaSilva said she had allowed Rybus stay with her for a few weeks before this incident.

Rybus was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder as an adolescent. His mother was murdered by her boyfriend in July of 2006 and Rybus was known to struggle emotionally this time of year because of the anniversary. Rybus was transient and unemployed; his family described him as "in and out of jail." He is the father to five children, none of which he had regular contact with.

At the time of this incident, Rybus had two outstanding warrants. The first was for 25CR334, when Rybus failed to appear on felony charges of motor vehicle theft and drug paraphernalia. The bond for this warrant was set at \$5,000. The second was for 25M388, when Rybus failed to appear on charges of misdemeanor theft (under \$300). The bond for this warrant was set at \$100.00.



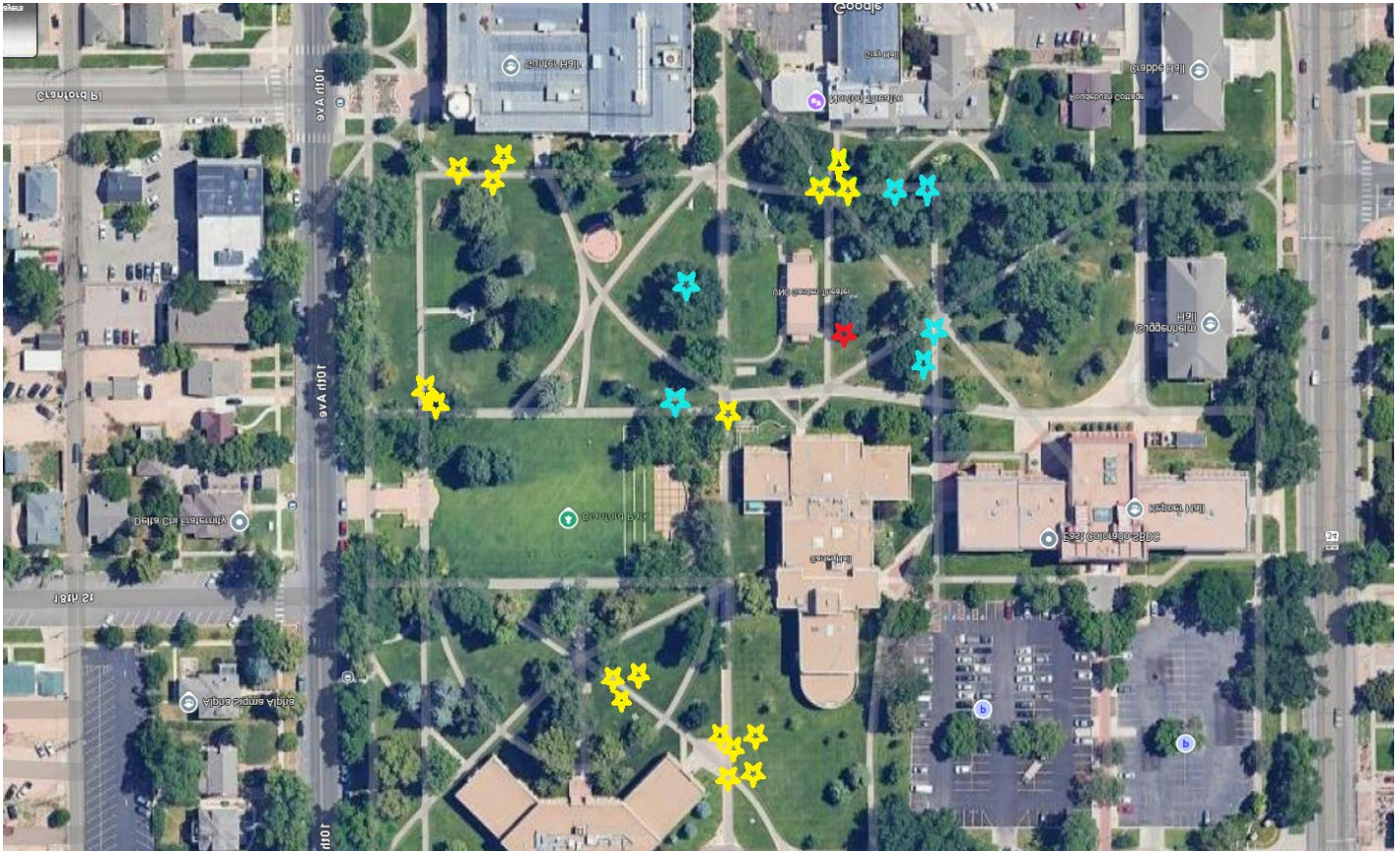
Weld County Jail booking photograph of Theodore Rybus – May 2025

INITIAL TRAFFIC STOP AND FLIGHT OF RYBUS

Members of S.E.T. began surveillance on Rybus in the evening hours of June 18, 2025. At 8:12 p.m., Officer Douglas attempted a traffic stop on the tan Buick bearing Colorado license plate CTH-E83 in the 1300 block of 16th Street in Greeley. The vehicle initially slowed and was indicating an intent to pull over, however, continued driving and ultimately accelerated after making an eastbound turn onto 18th Street. Approximately one minute later, Officer Trujillo aired on the radio that the suspect vehicle ran the stop sign at 11th Avenue. Trujillo estimated the vehicle was travelling at forty miles per hour and described it as bottoming out as it proceeded through the intersection.

FOOT PURSUIT AND SHOTS FIRED

At 8:16 p.m., Officer Cronquist aired a description of the suspect's clothing and said he was in the area of Kepner Hall at UNC. Four minutes later, Officer Vasquez aired that the suspect was headed back towards Cronquist. Vasquez's radio traffic was nearly unintelligible but consistent with a foot pursuit. At 8:20 p.m., Cronquist aired on the radio that the suspect had a gun and was not complying with police commands to drop it. One minute later, Cronquist aired that the suspect had the gun to his head and was threatening suicide. Cronquist also advised via radio that there were civilians to the west. Seconds later, Cronquist aired, "Shots fired." Cronquist and Vasquez were east of Rybus facing westbound at the time shots were fired. Officers Douglas and Trujillo were west of Rybus facing eastbound at the time shots were fired.



Google earth image of UNC depicting location of officers (teal) at time of shooting, as well as the suspect's location (red) and known locations of civilians (yellow)

OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Officer Adam Cronquist - GPD

Officer Cronquist is assigned to the S.E.T. unit at the Greeley Police Department. He has held this position for seven years. On the night of this incident, Cronquist was wearing a “soft” uniform, comprised of BDU’s, a polo shirt, exterior vest cover with GPD badge, as well as a gun belt. Cronquist carried a Glock model 47, nine-millimeter handgun with a fully loaded seventeen round magazine and one round in the chamber.



Officer Cronquist post incident

Cronquist received the information regarding Rybus’s warrants and was aware of the associated vehicle and the address on 18th Street. Cronquist and his teammates conducted surveillance in the area and ultimately established reasonable suspicion to justify a traffic stop. Cronquist was behind Officer Douglas when they attempted to stop on the tan Buick, and it failed to yield.

Only minutes after the attempted traffic stop was terminated, Cronquist located the tan Buick abandoned near 10th Avenue and 18th Street. Cronquist drove his unmarked police truck onto UNC campus looking for Rybus. He made contact with civilians in the area and obtained a direction of travel for the suspect who was on foot.

Officer Vasquez had responded to the area and was also on the UNC campus looking for Rybus. Cronquist saw Vasquez running after Rybus near a stairwell and heard Vasquez air on the radio, “He has a gun.” Cronquist joined Vasquez and saw Rybus with a handgun pointing to his head and was verbally threatening suicide.

Rybus did not comply with officer’s commands and proceeded to walk westbound through the UNC campus, with the gun to his head. Cronquist reported giving multiple commands for Rybus to drop the gun, however he was not compliant. Cronquist was aware of civilians in the area and could see an empty stroller as Rybus approached the garden theater. When Cronquist saw Rybus’s arm drop slightly, Cronquist fired two rounds at him, in fear for the safety of others.

Cronquist was aware that Vasquez had fired one round. Cronquist saw Rybus shoot himself in the head after he fell to the ground. A review of body worn camera footage indicated that Cronquist actually fired three rounds, however, he was not permitted to review the footage prior to giving a statement and only recalled firing two rounds.

Cronquist said he heard Vasquez give a verbal warning in compliance with C.R.S. 18-1-707.

Officer Julian Vasquez - GPD

Officer Vasquez is assigned to the patrol division as a swing shift officer. On the night of this incident, he was wearing a GPD patrol uniform comprised of dark blue patrol pants, a uniform shirt with police shoulder patches, an exterior vest carrier with GPD badge and gun belt. Vasquez carried a Glock model 47, nine-millimeter handgun with a fully loaded seventeen round magazine and one in the chamber.

While on routine patrol, Vasquez heard units from S.E.T. requesting a clear channel on the radio and was aware they were attempting to apprehend a fugitive with warrants who had fled on foot onto the UNC campus.

Vasquez responded to UNC and drove onto the campus in a marked patrol vehicle near 9th Avenue and 17th Street. Vasquez reported seeing multiple civilians on campus as he attempted to locate the described suspect. Vasquez initially spotted Rybus near Kepner Hall but quickly lost sight of him. Seconds later, Vasquez saw Rybus ducking behind a building and described him as “digging” in his waistband.



Officer Vasquez post incident

Vasquez gave Rybus loud and clear verbal commands to “get on the ground,” however, he was not compliant. Rybus reached for his waistband and produced a firearm, immediately putting it to his head. Vasquez gave Rybus multiple verbal commands to drop the gun. Rybus lowered the gun slightly from his head, however, he did not drop it and proceeded westbound on foot through campus, returning the gun back up to his head.

Vasquez believed Rybus was a threat of death or serious bodily injury to all the civilians in the area, fearing he may choose to take a hostage. Vasquez said he gave a verbal warning in compliance with C.R.S. 18-1-707. Vasquez said he subsequently fired one round and then saw Rybus put his gun to his head and fire one round.

Officer Kevin Douglas - GPD

Officer Douglas is assigned to the S.E.T. On the night of this incident, Douglas wore a “soft” uniform, comprised of BDU’s, a polo shirt, exterior vest carrier with GPD badge, as well as a gun belt.

Douglas was aware of Rybus’s outstanding warrants and was assisting Officer Cronquist with surveillance of Rybus’s associated vehicle and address. Douglas initiated a traffic stop on Rybus in the 1300 block of 16th Street. Douglas initially believed that Rybus was going to pull over, based on his driving pattern, however the vehicle then made an eastbound turn onto 18th Street and substantially accelerated making his intent to flee clear. Douglas discontinued his vehicle pursuit of Rybus and turned around to return to surveillance at the known residence in the 1100 block of 18th Street.

Moments later, Douglas heard Cronquist air a description of Rybus, who was on foot on the UNC campus. Officer Vasquez then aired an almost inaudible transmission consistent with him being in a foot chase with the suspect. Cronquist aired that the suspect had a gun and was “not complying.” Douglas drove his unmarked vehicle onto campus, with the police lights activated in an attempt to find Rybus and the other officers.

Douglas located Rybus east of him, walking westbound. Douglas was only able to catch a few quick glimpses of Rybus because of his movements and a pavilion which obstructed his view. From these glimpses, Douglas saw Rybus with a gun in his hand, with his arms bent, moving the gun around his midsection. Douglas heard gunfire and believed Rybus was shooting at him. In fear for his safety and the safety of civilians in the area, Douglas made the decision to shoot Rybus, however, his limited view of him did not present the opportunity for a shot. When Douglas finally believed he had a clear shot, he immediately saw officers in the background

of Rybus, directly in the field of fire, therefore he did not fire his weapon. Douglas saw Rybus stumble and ultimately fall to the ground.

Officer Daniel Trujillo – GPD

Officer Trujillo is assigned to the S.E.T. On the night of this incident, Trujillo was wearing a “soft” uniform, comprised of BDU’s, a polo shirt, exterior vest carrier with GPD badge, as well as a gun belt.

Trujillo was involved in the pre-stop surveillance of Rybus and was aware of his outstanding warrants. After the information was aired on the radio regarding Rybus’s failure to stop the Buick, Trujillo saw the vehicle run the stop sign at 11th Avenue and 18th Street at a high rate of speed and observed the vehicle “bottom out.” Radio traffic indicated the vehicle was abandoned a short time later and a foot pursuit had led officers onto UNC campus. Trujillo heard radio traffic that Rybus was armed with a gun and not complying with commands while running from officers.

Trujillo drove his unmarked police vehicle onto the UNC campus and made the decision to deploy with his rifle out of concern for the safety threat to civilians in the area. While retrieving his rifle, Trujillo heard two to three gunshots. Trujillo connected with Officer Cronquist who was also west of the suspect, and observed Rybus shoot himself in the head.

Officers Jungles & Hernandez – UNC PD

Officer Matthew Jungles was inside UNC police department working on reports when he heard radio traffic that GPD officers were pursuing a suspect onto campus near Kepner Hall. Jungles responded and saw a male walking near Guggenheim Hall towards the garden theater with a gun. Jungles observed civilians at a picnic table nearby. Jungles gave the male a command to “drop it,” but did not fire his weapon.

Officer Marco Hernandez’s shift had not yet begun, and he was inside the UNC PD. Hernandez heard GPD radio traffic that they were dealing with a male near Kepner Hall. Hernandez went outside and saw two GPD officers pursuing a male in a black shirt with a gun in his right hand. Hernandez gave the male commands to “Drop weapon!” but did not fire his weapon.

SCENE INVESTIGATION

Officer Cronquist fired a total of three rounds from his department issued nine-millimeter Glock handgun. Officer Vasquez fired one round from his department issued nine-millimeter Glock handgun. No other officers fired their weapons. Rybus fired one round from the Ruger nine-millimeter handgun he was in possession of at the time of this incident. The crime scene investigation recovered all four shell casings fired by officers.



Both officers carried their duty weapons with 17 rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. Officer Cronquist’s duty weapon post-incident had one round in the chamber and 14 rounds in the magazine. Officer Vasquez’s duty weapon post-incident had one round in the chamber and 16 rounds in the magazine.

One of law enforcement's spent rounds was recovered inside a metal power box on the east side of the garden theater. Another one of the officer's rounds was recovered during autopsy, lodged in Rybus's lower spine. The remaining two rounds fired by officers were not recovered from the scene. The lab conducted functions testing of all three handguns fired during this incident and concluded each of the weapons capable of firing.



Scene photograph with red arrow pointing to location of one recovered officer round

The gun used by Rybus to shoot himself had blood on the inside of the slide, which is consistent with the slide being open when the round impacted his head. An E-trace of this firearm was completed on July 1, 2025, which revealed it was purchased in April of 2024 from Pawn Experts in Loveland by Adrian Lynn. Investigators were unsuccessful at contacting Lynn, who is a suspect in a felony menacing investigation from late 2024.



Photographs of the nine-millimeter Ruger possessed by Rybus during this incident which show blood on the interior of the slide

OTHER WITNESS STATEMENTS

Meredith & Jacob Hutton

The Huttons were finishing a picnic at a table near the pavilion on campus with their dogs and 12-day-old daughter when they saw a male walk by in all black; he did not appear to be in his “right mind.” The couple described being approached by a police officer in an unmarked vehicle (Officer Cronquist) and provided him with the male’s last known direction of travel.

Moments later, the Huttons heard multiple commands to, “Drop the gun!” Jacob heard officers yelling at them to clear the area, and it appeared as though the male was coming back towards them. Jacob grabbed his family, leaving the stroller behind, and ran towards the police department. They were ultimately let into a locked building on campus by a janitor. As they were getting inside, they heard multiple gunshots.



Image showing the distance between the Huttons (left) and Rybus (right)

Reilly Naff

Naff was on a bench near the courtyard reading a book when she saw law enforcement vehicles arrive. She then heard multiple commands of, “Drop it!” Naff initially believed it was someone commanding their dog. When Naff realized it was the commands of law enforcement she felt unsafe and immediately began walking west. Naff made it to Gunter Hall before hearing multiple gunshots. Naff told investigators it was at that point when she began running because she was in fear for her safety.

AUTOPSY

At autopsy, Forensic Pathologist Dr. Michael Burson determined Rybus sustained two gunshot wounds.

Gunshot Wound #1: Entrance on the right side of head just above the ear – exit top left side of head. Burson determined this injury was self-inflicted; he ruled the death a suicide.

Gunshot Wound #2: Entrance in the lower back just left of center. The round was lodged in the spine and recovered during autopsy. Burson determined this wound would have cause Rybus mobility issues but was not a fatal injury.

Toxicology examinations of Rybus’s blood detected 38 ng/mL of fentanyl, 27 ng/ML of norfentanyl, 29 ng/mL of amphetamine and 220 ng/mL of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine abusers with blood levels over 200 ng/mL have been reported to exhibit “violent and irrational behavior.”

CONCLUSION

All available body worn camera and surveillance footage was reviewed at length. In addition, physical evidence was collected from the scene. All of this evidence was found to be consistent with statements given by both involved officers, the witness officers and civilian witnesses.

The investigation supports that at the time of his demise, Theodore Rybus was wanted on one outstanding felony warrant for failure to appear, and another outstanding misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear. Because of Rybus's fugitive status, as well as his known involvement with other criminal activity, efforts were initiated by members of the S.E.T. to locate and arrest him.

Officers observed a male, consistent with Rybus's physical appearance driving a tan Buick, known to be associated to him. After attempting a lawful stop of that vehicle, Rybus fled at a high rate of speed. Though officers initially discontinued the vehicle pursuit because of the danger it posed to the public, they were able to locate Rybus on foot on the UNC campus a short time later.

Officers Vasquez and Cronquist gave chase and Rybus presented a handgun, initially putting it to his own head. From the time Rybus first produced the handgun from his waist to the time officers fired shots was approximately 75 seconds. During that minute and fifteen second standoff, Vasquez gave Rybus seven commands to drop the gun; Cronquist gave Rybus fourteen commands to drop the gun. Just before the first shot was fired, Vasquez gave a verbal warning in compliance with C.R.S. 18-1-707. UNC officers also became involved during the time and collectively gave multiple commands for Rybus to drop his weapon.



Screenshot from Officer Vasquez's BWC showing Rybus with the gun to his head

Rybus did not comply with officer's commands to stop or drop the gun and continued his path westward across campus. As Rybus neared the garden theater, Cronquist and Vasquez both fired upon him, expressing fear for the safety of civilians they knew were in the area.

C.I.R.T. investigators conducted a post-incident interview with the registered owner of the tan Buick, Coral DaSilva. DaSilva said Rybus's paranoid behavior had recently escalated. DaSilva reported that Rybus was consistently in possession of a black handgun, even when sleeping. DaSilva told investigators that Rybus had made numerous statements about not going back to jail and his willingness to, "Shoot it out with the cops." DaSilva reported that on the date of this offense, Rybus had smoked something "stinky" in her apartment.

A search of the tan Buick recovered a small clear plastic bowl containing a white residue. The substance tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. In addition, twenty blue pills consistent with counterfeit oxycodone mixed with fentanyl blue pills were collected from the Buick.

Rybus's post-mortem toxicology analysis confirmed his use of fentanyl and methamphetamine which likely contributed to his behavior at the time of this encounter with police.