

Idaho Falls Police Department

News Release

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For Immediate Release:

Prosecutor Determines Shooting to be Justifiable

Bonneville County Prosecutor Bruce Pickett stated during a press conference Thursday morning that Idaho Falls Police Officers and Bonneville County Sheriff's Deputies acted in self-defense during the June 17th officer-involved shooting.

Douglas J. Walters, 50, shot Officer Malin Reynolds point-blank in the chest first before Reynolds and Bonneville County Deputies Tony Glenn and Chad Lenz returned gun fire. Walters died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

"Officers did not draw their weapons until Officer Reynolds had been shot and only fire their weapons when Mr. Walters moved his gun aiming it towards them," Pickett said. "I find that the officers acted in self-defense in this case and the shooting was justifiable."

According to an investigation by the Eastern Idaho Critical Response Team, Idaho State Police made traffic stop on Walters of Idaho Falls at the intersection of Whittier and Yellowstone Highway.

During the stop, ISP officers determined that Walters, who was driving a white pick-up truck, had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. As officers began to take him into custody, Walters fled from ISP.

ISP pursued Walters and Idaho Falls Police intercepted Walters a short time later as he approached the intersection of Holmes and 17th Street. Police followed Walters to his home, located at 302 E. 17th Street.

Walters ran from the truck and went inside the home.

After attempts to get Walters to come out of the house, officers forced entry into the home.

Inside the home, Walters shot Officer Reynolds as he came from around a corner as he attempted to apprehend him.

Officers returned six gunshots while Walters simultaneously fired a second gunshot that killed himself.

Idaho Falls Police Chief Steve Roos said the officers did a good job and acted professionally.

“What the officers did was spot on by policy and procedure and their training,” Roos said. “This is a tough part of our job and I’m proud of the professional manner in which it was handled.”

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