



Office of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James

Office of Special Investigation

January 16, 2026

Report on the Investigation into the Death of Emil Williams

OVERVIEW

New York Executive Law Section 70-b (Section 70-b) directs the Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) to investigate and, if warranted, to prosecute offenses arising from any incident in which the death of a person is caused by a police officer or a peace officer. When, as in this case, OSI does not seek charges, Section 70-b requires OSI to issue a public report. This is the public report of OSI's investigation of the death of Emil Williams, who was shot and killed on February 18, 2025, in Queens County, by New York City Police Department (NYPD) Officers John Wright, Marc Loyola, Christian Martinez, and Irving Rawlins.

On February 18, 2025, at 6:40 p.m., Officer John Wright was assigned to a security post at the 111th Precinct and was stationed outside the glass entrance doors of the stationhouse. He saw a man, later identified as Mr. Williams, walk toward him holding a gun, which Mr. Williams raised and pointed at Officer Wright. Officer Wright broadcast a call for assistance over his police radio because a man with a firearm was standing in front of the precinct. Officer Wright took cover behind a parked police car while raising his department-issued firearm, activated his body-worn camera (BWC), and directed Mr. Williams to put the gun down. Officers Marc Loyola, Christian Martinez, and Irving Rawlins ran outside the precinct to assist Officer Wright. Mr. Williams kept his gun raised and pointed at the officers. The officers repeatedly commanded Mr. Williams to put the gun down. Mr. Williams did not comply. All four of the officers fired their guns, striking Mr. Williams. Officers provided life-saving measures and Mr. Williams was transported by ambulance to New York Presbyterian Queens Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 7:02 p.m.

Having thoroughly investigated the facts and analyzed the law, OSI concludes that a prosecutor would not be able to disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of deadly physical force against Mr. Williams by Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins was justified under New York law, and therefore will not seek charges against them.

FACTS

Background Information

The incident occurred in front of the 111th Precinct, at 45-06 215th Street, in Bayside, Queens County. The four shooting officers were assigned to the 111th Precinct. None of the officers had fired their guns on duty before this incident, other than in training, and none of them had encountered Mr. Williams before this incident.

Officer John Wright became a member of NYPD in 2016. Officer Marc Loyola became a member of NYPD in 2013. Officer Christian Martinez became a member of NYPD in 2017. Officer Irving Rawlins became a member of NYPD in 2016.

Mr. Williams was 79 years old at the time of the shooting.

Body-Worn Camera Videos

The narrative in this section is based on OSI's review of the BWC videos of Officers Wright, Martinez, and Rawlins, whose BWC videos can be seen here: [Wright](#), [Martinez](#), [Rawlins](#). The times cited in this section are taken from the time stamps in the BWC videos.

Officer Wright's BWC video showed that on February 18, 2025, at 6:40 p.m., he was stationed outside the precinct entrance, between the doors and the metal barricade on the sidewalk. BWC video showed that Mr. Williams, wearing a blue jacket with the hood over his head, walked toward the front of the precinct. Officer Wright shined his flashlight on Mr. Williams, showing a gun in his right hand, which was raised and pointed at Officer Wright. Officer Wright moved to his right and took cover behind a police car parked on the sidewalk and gestured to a woman walking towards the precinct entrance to move away. BWC audio captured Officer Wright yell, "Sir, put down the gun right now. Put down the fucking gun, are you kidding me? Are you kidding me, put down the gun," as Officer Wright drew his gun, held it in front of him, and pointed it at Mr. Williams. As heard on his BWC video, Officer Wright transmitted over his police radio, "Central, I have a male with a firearm in the front. Male with a firearm in the front, one at gun..." Officer Wright's BWC captured the sound of a gunshot, and Officer Wright yelled, "Get down on the ground!" The BWC captured the sound of multiple additional gunshots, during which Officer Wright fired his gun. Officer Wright walked toward Mr. Williams, who was down on the ground, and transmitted over the radio, "Shots fired. Central, I have shots fired."

Officer Wright's BWC video showed that Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins surrounded Mr. Williams. Officer Wright radioed that a man was in custody, and he requested an ambulance. Officer Rawlins yelled out, "The gun," and pointed at the ground. Officer Wright stated, "I got it, I got it, we're not touching it right now." Officer Wright advised Central that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was in progress and asked for the ETA of the ambulance. Officer Wright walked into the precinct and turned off his BWC.



Still image from Officer Wright's BWC video at 6:40:09 p.m. showing his flashlight illuminating Mr. Williams holding a gun in his right hand (circled in red), which was raised and pointed at Officer Wright.

Officer Martinez's BWC video showed that on February 18, 2025, at 6:40 p.m., he was seated in front of a computer inside the precinct; Officer Rawlins was seated to his left. Both officers stood up and ran through the door leading into the lobby of the precinct. BWC video showed that Officer Rawlins ran through both sets of glass doors and arrived outside first. Officer Martinez followed close behind and crouched down between the glass doors and the metal barricade on the sidewalk. BWC showed that Officer Wright told Mr. Williams to put down the gun. BWC video showed Mr. Williams stood in the roadway outside the Precinct, with a gun in his left hand, raised at Officer Martinez. Officer Martinez drew his gun and held it in front of him, pointed at Mr. Williams. Officer Martinez's BWC captured the sound of multiple voices telling Mr. Williams to put down the gun. Officer Martinez ran back inside the Precinct and stood inside the inner set of glass doors with his gun raised. BWC captured the sound of multiple gunshots, during which Officer Martinez fired his gun. BWC video showed that both sets of glass doors shattered. Officer Martinez ran outside, where BWC video showed Mr. Williams lying face down on the ground. Officer Martinez handcuffed Mr. Williams and the group of shooting officers turned Mr. Williams onto his back. BWC video showed Officer Wright called on his radio for EMS, and Officer Loyola started CPR on Mr. Williams at 6:42 p.m.



Still image from Officer Martinez's BWC video at 6:40:28 p.m. showing Mr. Williams holding a gun in his left hand (circled in red), pointed at Officer Martinez

Officer Rawlins's BWC video showed that on February 18, 2025, at 6:40 p.m., he was seated inside the precinct. He stood up, ran through the door leading to the lobby of the precinct, and ran outside through both sets of glass entrance doors. Officer Rawlins ran to his right and took cover behind a police car. Officer Rawlins walked up the right side of the car toward the hood with his gun raised and fired multiple gunshots over the hood of the car in the direction of Mr. Williams. Officer Rawlins walked around the front of the car, and BWC video showed Mr. Williams down on the ground. Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins surrounded Mr. Williams, and handcuffed him. Officer Rawlins's BWC video showed a black gun on the ground between Mr. Williams's feet and the sidewalk outside the precinct. Officer Rawlins walked down 215th Street towards Northern Boulevard where a bystander told him that a bullet had gone through the glass at Bolt Fitness on the opposite side of Northern Boulevard. Officer Rawlins assisted other officers in wrapping crime scene tape around the area. Officer Rawlins walked back toward Mr. Williams, where BWC video showed a uniformed officer performed CPR on Mr. Williams. Officer Rawlins's BWC video showed that EMS arrived at 6:46 p.m.



Still image from Officer Rawlins's BWC video at 6:41:34 p.m. showing the gun on the ground

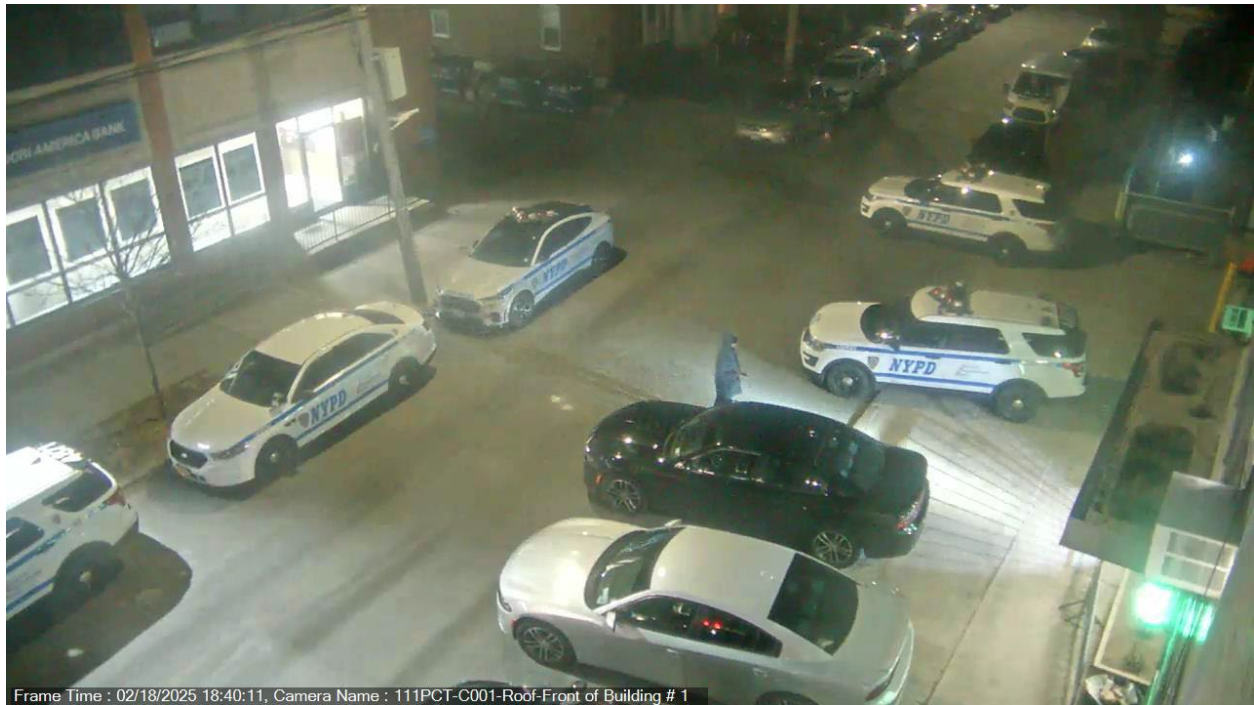
Precinct Camera Video

OSI reviewed video from two cameras mounted on the rooftop of the 111th Precinct and one camera mounted near the front entrance to the precinct. The videos captured the incident in its entirety. The times cited in this section are taken from the time stamps in the videos.

The first rooftop camera captured a view of the roadway outside the precinct entrance on 215th Street, facing away from Northern Boulevard; that video can be found here: [Precinct rooftop video 1](#). The second rooftop camera captured a view of the roadway outside the precinct entrance and the intersection at 215th Street and Northern Boulevard; that video can be found here: [Precinct rooftop video 2](#). The video from the camera mounted near the front entrance captured a closer view of Mr. Williams and the shooting officers; that video can be found here: [Precinct entrance video](#).

The precinct camera videos showed that, at 6:39 p.m., Mr. Williams got out of a white SUV parked across the street from the precinct. As Mr. Williams approached the front of the precinct, he held the gun in his right hand and raised it. He stopped in the roadway, steps from the sidewalk outside the precinct. The video showed that Officer Wright illuminated Mr. Williams with his flashlight, spoke into his police radio, and took cover behind the police car parked to the right of the precinct door. Mr. Williams kept the gun raised and switched it to his left hand. Officers Rawlins and Martinez ran out of the precinct, and both officers unholstered their weapons and pointed them at Mr. Williams. Officer Rawlins ran past Officer Wright to a second police car parked on the sidewalk. Officer Martinez ducked down behind the metal barrier on the sidewalk outside the precinct entrance. Officer Martinez then ran back inside the precinct vestibule and out of camera view. The video showed some of the

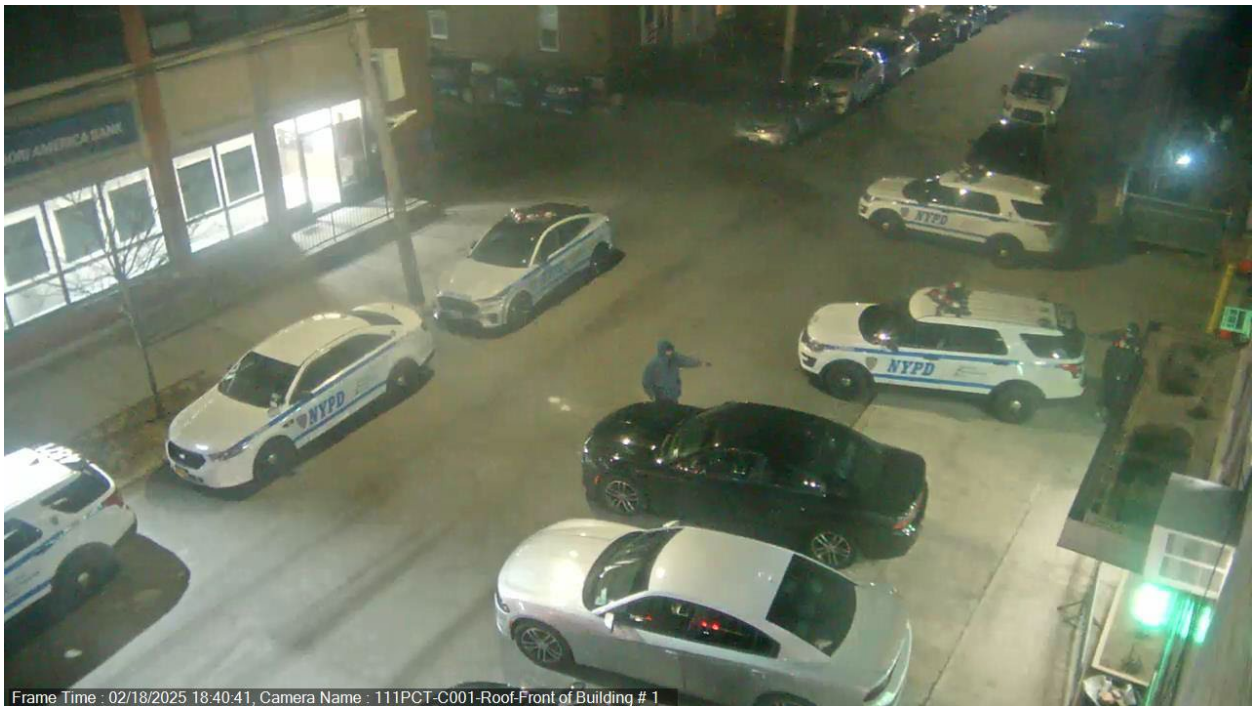
bullets fired from the area of the precinct entrance doors struck an unmarked police car parked outside the entrance. Mr. Williams was struck by a bullet and fell to the ground. Within seconds of falling to the ground, the four shooting officers ran from where they took cover and surrounded Mr. Williams. Other officers emerged from the precinct and ran to Mr. Williams. Officers performed CPR on Mr. Williams until EMS arrived at 6:47 p.m.; Mr. Williams was placed on a stretcher and wheeled away.



Still image from the precinct rooftop video at 6:40:11 p.m. showing Mr. Williams holding a gun in his right hand



Still image from the precinct entrance video at 6:40:29 p.m. showing Mr. Williams with the gun in his left hand, Officer Wright behind the police car with his gun raised, Officer Rawlins behind Officer Wright, and Officers Martinez and Loyola with their guns raised in the precinct entrance.



Still image from the precinct rooftop video at 6:40:41 p.m. showing Mr. Williams holding a gun in his left hand.

Officer Interviews

OSI interviewed the four shooting officers.

Police Officer John Wright

Officer Wright told OSI that he was assigned to stationhouse security at the 111th Precinct on February 18, 2025. He was standing outside the glass doors of the precinct when he saw Mr. Williams, wearing a bubble jacket, slowly approach him from across the street. He said that Mr. Williams stopped at the curb in front of the stationhouse, about a car's length away from Officer Wright. Officer Wright said that he asked Mr. Williams why he was there, but he did not respond. Mr. Williams stood with one hand in his pocket and the other hand down at his side. Officer Wright said that he could see that Mr. Williams was holding an object, but, because of the lighting conditions, Officer Wright could not initially identify what it was. Officer Wright said he shined his flashlight on Mr. Williams and saw that he was holding a revolver in his hand. Officer Wright immediately moved toward the police car parked to his right, seeking cover. He said that as he moved toward the car, a woman walked toward the precinct and Officer Wright told her to leave. Officer Wright said he repeatedly told Mr. Williams to drop the gun. As he moved behind the car, Officer Wright radioed for assistance and turned on his BWC. Officer Wright said that Mr. Williams pointed the gun toward him and other officers outside the precinct door. Officer Wright said he heard gunshots but wasn't sure if the shots were fired by Mr. Williams or other officers. After he heard the initial shots, Officer Wright said that he saw Mr. Williams again raise his arm holding the gun and Officer Wright fired his gun one time. Officer Wright saw Mr. Williams fall to the ground and Officer Wright kicked the revolver away from Mr. Williams while the other officers rendered aid.

Police Officer Marc Loyola

Officer Loyola told OSI that he was on a meal break inside the 111th Precinct and his BWC was in its docking station. He said he heard Officer Wright call over the radio for assistance. Officer Loyola said he could tell from the tone of Officer Wright's voice that the call was urgent, and he immediately ran towards the front of the precinct. He said he did not hear Officer Wright broadcast that the man had a gun, but when he ran outside, he saw Mr. Williams with a gun raised and pointed in his direction. Officer Loyola said he saw that Officer Martinez had ducked behind the barrier outside the precinct and Officer Wright stood to the right behind a car. Officer Loyola said that he and Officer Martinez had no cover where they were standing, and he knew that a family with children was doing a custody exchange at the bench just inside the precinct. Officer Loyola said he unholstered his firearm, grabbed Officer Martinez on his shoulder and told him to go back inside. Officer Loyola covered Officer Martinez's retreat into the precinct. Officer Loyola ran back into the precinct and stopped in the vestibule between the two sets of glass doors. Officer Loyola heard Officer Wright tell Mr. Williams to drop the

gun multiple times. Officer Loyola said that Mr. Williams raised the gun higher and pointed it directly at Officer Loyola. Officer Loyola said he thought Mr. Williams was going to shoot him and Officer Martinez and possibly injure the family inside the precinct. Officer Loyola heard gunshots after which the glass doors shattered around him. He said he thought Mr. Williams was firing at him. Officer Loyola fired his weapon at Mr. Williams multiple times. Officer Loyola said that as soon as Mr. Williams fell to the ground and was not a threat anymore, Officer Loyola stopped shooting. He holstered his weapon and ran to Mr. Williams and began performing CPR. Officer Loyola said he saw Mr. Williams's gun near his feet.

Police Officer Christian Martinez

Officer Martinez told OSI that he and Officer Rawlins were inside the precinct together completing paperwork when he heard Officer Wright call for assistance. He said that he and Officer Rawlins immediately ran outside, where he saw Mr. Williams pointing a gun in his direction. Officer Martinez said he drew his firearm and crouched behind the metal barrier in front of the precinct because he thought Mr. Williams was going to shoot him. A person behind him told him to come back inside and he ran into the precinct past Officer Loyola in the vestibule and past both sets of glass doors. Officer Martinez said that, as he passed Officer Loyola, he heard a gunshot, and the glass shattered. He turned and saw Mr. Williams still pointing the gun in his direction and thought Mr. Williams was shooting at Officer Loyola. Officer Martinez said he fired his gun at Mr. Williams, discharging three rounds, and saw him fall to the ground. Officer Martinez said that he never heard Mr. Williams say anything,

Police Officer Irving Rawlins

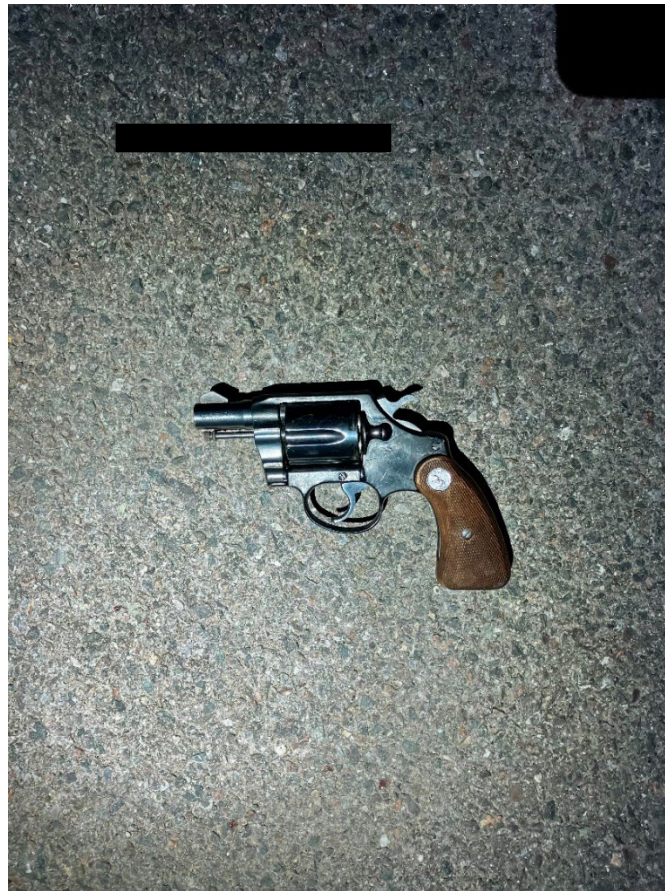
Officer Rawlins told OSI that he and Officer Martinez were inside the muster room of the precinct completing paperwork when he heard Officer Wright's radio call for assistance. Officer Rawlins was the first officer to come out of the precinct in response. He said he saw Mr. Williams standing in the middle of the street with his arm raised and a gun in his hand pointed in Officer Rawlins's direction. Officer Rawlins ran to the right and unholstered his weapon. Officer Rawlins said he initially stopped behind that car to seek cover, but could not see over the car, and so ran to a second car and took cover there. He heard Officer Wright repeatedly order Mr. Williams to drop the gun. He saw a woman approach the precinct door and pushed her away. Officer Rawlins said Mr. Williams then pointed the gun at Officer Wright. Officer Rawlins heard glass breaking and fired his weapon at Mr. Williams, discharging six rounds. He said Mr. Williams fell to the ground, and he ran toward him and grabbed his left hand while Officer Martinez placed him in handcuffs.

Interview with O.B.

OSI interviewed O.B. (OSI does not identify civilian witnesses), the woman who was walking outside the 111th Precinct when Mr. Williams first approached with precinct with his gun drawn. O.B. said that she came to the precinct for a custody exchange with her child's father and parked her car outside the front entrance. She said that as she walked toward the precinct entrance, she saw a man walking outside the precinct wearing a dark blue jacket and moving slowly. She saw that he held a black object in his right hand, which she assumed to be a phone. As she got closer to the precinct doors, a police officer pushed her back and told her to take cover. She said that she took cover behind a police car. She heard the officers tell the man to drop the gun many times. She saw that the object in the man's hand was a gun, and he was pointing the gun at the officers. She said that she heard multiple gunshots and the man with the gun fell to the ground. She said that after he fell, officers ran over to him and called for EMS.

Evidence Collection and Analysis

The NYPD Crime Scene Unit (CSU) recovered a .38 caliber Colt Cobra revolver from the ground near Mr. Williams's feet; it was fully loaded with six live rounds.



CSU photograph of the recovered revolver

CSU recovered 21 spent 9mm Speer brand shell casings, which were consistent with NYPD-issued ammunition. One deformed fired bullet was recovered from inside Bolt Fitness.

Officer Firearms

CSU took possession of Officer Wright's firearm, an NYPD-issued 9 mm Glock 17 pistol with a 15-round magazine, for a total capacity of 16 rounds, with one round in the firing chamber. Upon examination, the gun had one round in the chamber and 14 rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Wright having fired one shot.

CSU took possession of Officer Loyola's firearm, an NYPD-issued 9 mm Smith and Wesson pistol with a 15-round magazine, for a total capacity of 16 rounds, with one round in the firing chamber. Upon examination, the gun had one round in the chamber and four rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Loyola having fired 11 shots.

CSU took possession of Officer Martinez's firearm, an NYPD-issued 9 mm Glock 17 pistol with a 15-round magazine, for a total capacity of 16 rounds, with one round in the firing chamber. Upon examination, the gun had one round in the chamber and 12 rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Martinez having fired three shots.

CSU took possession of Officer Rawlins's firearm, an NYPD-issued 9 mm Glock 17 pistol with a 15-round magazine, for a total capacity of 16 rounds, with one round in the firing chamber. Upon examination, the gun had one round in the chamber and nine rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Rawlins having fired six shots.

Autopsy

Dr. Gregory Dickinson of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner conducted the autopsy and determined that the cause of Mr. Williams's death was "gunshot wound of torso with injury of left lung." He deemed the manner of death to be "homicide (shot by police)." The autopsy found that Mr. Williams was struck by gunfire four times, to his chest, torso, right thigh, and left thigh.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

Article 35 of the New York Penal Law defines the circumstances under which a person may be justified in using deadly physical force against another. Justification is a defense, not an affirmative defense, Penal Law Section (PL) 35.00. To obtain a conviction at trial, a prosecutor must disprove a defense beyond a reasonable doubt, PL 25.00(1). As detailed below, based on the evidence in this investigation, OSI concludes that a prosecutor would be unable to

disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of deadly physical force by Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins was justified.

Deadly physical force is force that “under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or other serious physical injury.” PL 10.00(10).

PL 35.30 is the provision defining justification when a police officer or peace officer uses force to effect or attempt to effect an arrest.

PL 35.30(1) provides:

“A police officer or a peace officer, in the course of effecting or attempting to effect an arrest ... of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an offense, may use physical force when and to the extent he or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to effect the arrest ... or in self-defense or to defend a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of physical force; except that deadly physical force may be used for such purposes only when he or she reasonably believes that ... (c) regardless of the particular offense which is the subject of the arrest ... the use of deadly physical force is necessary to defend the police officer or peace officer or another person from what the officer reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.”

Under the law, therefore, deadly physical force by a police officer is justified when the officer reasonably believes deadly force is necessary to defend the officer or another against what the officer reasonably believes is the imminent use of deadly physical force. Police officers using force pursuant to PL 35.30(1) are under no duty to retreat when threatened with deadly physical force, according to PL 35.15(2)(a)(ii).

In *People v Jairo Castillo*, 42 NY3d 628, 631 (2024), the New York Court of Appeals stated:

“The defense of justification provides that a person may use physical force to defend himself against an assailant’s ‘imminent use of unlawful physical force,’ but does not authorize the use of ‘deadly physical force . . . unless . . . [the person] reasonably believes that [the assailant] . . . is using or about to use deadly physical force’ (Penal Law § 35.15). When considering a request for a justification charge, courts examine the evidence in the light most favorable to the defendant and must provide the instruction if there is any reasonable view of the evidence that defendant was justified in his actions (see *People v Heiserman*, 39 NY3d 988, 990 [2022]). Justification has both a subjective requirement, that ‘defendant . . . actually believed . . . he [was] . . . threatened with the imminent use of deadly physical force,’ and an objective

requirement, that defendant's 'reactions were . . . those of a reasonable man acting in self-defense' (*People v Collice*, 41 NY2d 906, 907 [1977])." (Square brackets and ellipses in the original.)

A person does not have to wait to be attacked before using deadly physical force. *People v Valentin*, 29 NY3d 57, 60 (2017) ("He may...be the first to use deadly physical force so long as he reasonably believed it was about to be used against him").

Based on the evidence in this investigation, OSI concludes that a prosecutor would not be able to disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins were justified when they shot and killed Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams was pointing a gun at the officers outside the Precinct and refused to comply with multiple commands to drop the gun. The officers had reason to believe that Mr. Williams committed the Penal Law offenses of menacing a police officer and criminal possession of a weapon. Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins had a reasonable belief that Mr. Williams was about to use deadly physical force against them by firing the gun.

Therefore, OSI concludes that a prosecutor would not be able to disprove that Officers Wright, Loyola, Martinez, and Rawlins reasonably believed they needed to use deadly physical force. As a result, OSI will not seek charges against them, and closes the matter with the issuance of this report.

Dated: January 16, 2025.