

01 June 2020

FURTHER DETAILS ON BODY CAMERA VIDEO AND AUDIO

The body camera video showed Mr. Myers was unarmed, had raised his hands and was standing approximately 8 to 10 feet from the deputies when he was shot. The video and audio recorded multiple officers shouting inconsistent commands for approximately 8 seconds, which Mr. Myers attempted to follow. That's when Undersheriff Brewer fired a beanbag round near Myers' heart at close range, killing Mr. Myers. A beanbag is considered a "less lethal" use of force but must be employed according to strict guidelines. It was later revealed that Undersheriff Brewer was not trained in using beanbag rounds and that he shot Myers with a homemade beanbag given to him by a deputy friend from the Freestone County, Texas Sheriff's Office.

In addition to the shooting of an unarmed citizen complying with police commands, the body camera video and audio captured:

- Sheriff Lonnie Small telling Undersheriff Brewer just minutes prior to shooting Steven Myers, "A little luck and he'll just pass out and die."
- Sheriff Small walking away from the dying victim, leaving two new officers (who had only been certified for three weeks each) to perform CPR on Mr. Myers.
- Sheriff Small chuckling after Mr. Myers was shot, telling Pratt County Sheriff's Deputy Max Barrett he had "been wanting it bad," which Sheriff Small later testified in a deposition meant they had been wanting to see what a beanbag round does.
- Sheriff Small instructing deputies not to speak to the Coroner.
- Sheriff Small turning off his own recording device.