



# Jefferson County District Attorney Steven F. Leriche

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## CORRECTED

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

January 12, 2021

*Jefferson County District Attorney concludes review of January 6, 2021 Madras Police Department officer-involved shooting.*

Jefferson County District Attorney Steven Leriche announced Tuesday, January 12, 2021 that he has concluded his review of the Madras Police Department officer-involved shooting on January 6, 2021, near 470 NE Oak Street in Madras. The shooting resulted in minor injury to JORDAN ABBE, age 30, of Madras.

A full investigation of the incident was conducted by the Central Oregon Major Incident Team comprised of law enforcement agencies from Deschutes and Jefferson Counties. Law enforcement agencies involved in the interagency investigation included Oregon State Police, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend Police Department, Redmond Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and Warm Springs Police Department.

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at approximately 10:27 a.m., an acquaintance of ABBE's contacted law enforcement to request a welfare check on ABBE after he was observed agitated and behaving erratically. Officers were familiar with ABBE from prior contacts and elected not to contact ABBE at that time, as officers did not want to further agitate ABBE. The decision by law enforcement to defer contact with an individual who is not exhibiting criminal behavior in order to avoid escalating that individual's behavior is an acceptable exercise of police discretion.

At approximately 11:51 a.m., Sgt. Brown and Officer Ryan Kathrein were parked door-to-door in the parking lot of a local business when they heard the sound of screeching tires. A silver Chevrolet Monte Carlo entered the parking lot and drove around both officers at a maneuver commonly known as a "cookie" or "doughnut". Video surveillance from the business confirmed this information. Sgt. Brown recognized the driver as ABBE. Both officers described that ABBE nearly struck their vehicles because he was staring and making eye contact with them rather than monitoring the movement of his vehicle. The officers quickly moved their vehicles out of ABBE's path and activated their overhead lights in an attempt to get ABBE to pull over. Both officers told investigators they had never seen such unusual conduct throughout their careers in law enforcement. Sgt. Brown has 24 years' experience in law enforcement, Officer Kathrein has 14 years.

ABBE led both officers through a short pursuit from the business area of Madras into a more residential neighborhood near St. Charles Hospital in Madras. Recorded radio traffic confirms that Officer Kathrein notified dispatch that ABBE almost struck both officers again during the

pursuit, and that Officer Kathrein observed ABBE appear to reach for something in the vehicle during the pursuit. Both officers described that throughout the pursuit, ABBE would periodically slow down to try to draw them in closer, then slam on or “anchor” his brakes, apparently in an effort to cause a crash. Sgt. Brown told investigators he believed ABBE planned to stop his vehicle at a point where ABBE would have a tactical advantage against the officers. At one point ABBE pulled over near Oak and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, but as the officers exited their vehicles to arrest ABBE, he took off again, nearly striking Sgt. Brown’s patrol vehicle.

Thereafter, ABBE proceeded eastbound on Oak Street before suddenly turning the vehicle around to head westbound back toward the officers, traveling into the lane occupied by Officer Kathrein. Officer Kathrein reported to investigators that because there were other vehicles parked on the side of the road, Officer Kathrein was unable to move his vehicle out of ABBE’s path and was struck by ABBE’s vehicle. Sgt. Brown had exited his vehicle immediately before or at the time of the crash and described that after Officer Kathrein’s vehicle was hit, ABBE turned and focused his attention on Sgt. Brown. ABBE’s vehicle was still running and ABBE made no attempt to exit his vehicle. At least once civilian witness described that ABBE was “revving” his engine. At that point, having no less-lethal option available to him and having no way to return to his own vehicle without giving ABBE the opportunity to strike him, and ABBE having already shown a willingness to use the deadly force of his vehicle against law enforcement, Sgt. Brown fired into ABBE’s vehicle. Sgt. Brown was the only officer who fired. Subsequent investigation revealed that Sgt. Brown fired 12 times, with all rounds striking ABBE’s windshield. Sgt. Brown described that ABBE never stopped looking at Sgt. Brown or took any action to duck when fired upon, but appeared fixed on Sgt. Brown. In addition to interviewing all of the mentioned law enforcement, investigators spoke with several civilian witnesses and reviewed dashboard camera video footage from a civilian near the event. Madras Police Department is not equipped with dash or body cameras for officers.

ABBE was transported to St. Charles, Madras, where he was treated for minor injuries and released shortly after the shooting. ABBE was arrested upon his release and charged with two counts of Unlawful Use of a Weapon, one count of Attempting to Elude a Police Officer, one count of Reckless Driving, two counts of Menacing and two counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. These charges may change after ABBE’s case is presented to the Jefferson County Grand Jury. ABBE is currently held in the Jefferson County jail with security set at \$50,000.

The District Attorney is charged with the duty of reviewing incidents where deadly physical force is used by police to determine if the use of force was consistent under Oregon law. Upon review of this incident, evidence supports the conclusion that Sergeant Brown was justified in using deadly physical force under the circumstances and it was reasonable for him to believe that his life and Officer Kathrein’s lives were endangered by ABBE’s actions.

District Attorney Leriche thanks the investigating agencies involved with the Central Oregon Major Incident Team for a thorough and detailed investigation of this event.