

For Immediate Release – May 7, 2021

Contact: Jodi Lacey
Public Information Officer
laceyjl@co.larimer.co.us
(970) 498-7206



Gordon P. McLaughlin
District Attorney
Larimer & Jackson Counties

District Attorney Provides Update in CIRT Investigation

The 8th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) was activated on April 19, 2021. This activation occurred in response to allegations that a use of force by Loveland Police Officers resulted in serious bodily injury of Karen Garner.

Fort Collins Police Services is leading the criminal investigation. Detectives have been working to gather all of the facts surrounding the June 26, 2020 arrest of Ms. Garner. In order to provide the fullest body of information possible, this ongoing effort has included:

- Locating and working to interview nearly two dozen individuals associated with the incident
- Digitally enhancing, transcribing, and reviewing several hours of video
- Reviewing all available evidence and associated documentation from the incident, including the initial encounter at Walmart, the arrest, transport and continuing custody at the Loveland Police Department, the booking process at the Larimer County Jail, and subsequent medical evaluation and treatment

The investigation remains active as detectives work to ensure that all available evidence, statements, documentation, and other information surrounding this case is collected.

“Detectives have been tasked with conducting a thorough and professional investigation that leaves no stone unturned. That is what our community expects and deserves,” said District Attorney Gordon McLaughlin. “This requires independent information gathering, forensic processing, and coordination of resources. Timeliness of the investigation is important, but we cannot sacrifice accurateness or dependability for speed. I am confident that this necessary depth of work will provide reliable answers to the community about this incident.”

The CIRT investigation is expected to conclude in mid-May with a presentation to the District Attorney, who will review and determine what, if any, criminal violations occurred.

The internal review of the incident and a subsequent Loveland Police Department assessment is being managed by the City of Loveland’s Human Resource team, with the assistance from an outside consultant.

###

A copy of this letter has been posted to the District Attorney's web page at www.larimer.org/da/relations.htm.

The investigation of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6