



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06/04/2024

Town of Thermopolis, WY Mayor clears Chief of Police to return Sgt. Mascorro to full duty

Thermopolis, Wyoming –

1. The incident on April 28th, 2023 that led to the gunfire exchange that fatally wounded Buck Laramore and seriously injured Sgt. Mike Mascorro has been fully investigated by the Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Special Prosecutor Daniel Erramouspe and The Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST). The Town of Thermopolis also sent all its policies to the Wyoming Local Government Liability Pool (LGLP) for review and advice regarding this matter.
2. POST investigated the matter, did not revoke Sgt. Mascorro's certification, and sent their findings to the Wyoming State Attorney General's Office (AG). Because POST has not revoked Sgt. Mascorro's certification, and sent their response to the AG's office, the Town will not be notified if the AG wants to have a hearing on Sgt. Mascorro's POST certification until, at best guess, January.
3. The LGLP is creating model policies for all towns insured by the LGLP because of a large demand for reviews in lieu of dealing with Thermopolis individually. When said policies are made available, the Council can decide to move forward with the process of adopting the model policies or paying for independent consultants to review and write policies.
4. To Date, with the reviews by POST and the LGLP, the Town has not received any guidance to remove Sgt. Mascorro from duty, thus forcing the Town to review this matter on its own.
5. Sgt. Mascorro was at Buck Laramore's residence effectuating a lawful arrest after consulting the County Attorney's office, Buck Laramore answered the door, knew he was under arrest, and fled into the house seeking to do harm. Thus, creating exigent circumstances which justify Sgt. Mascorro's entry into the home. Special Prosecutor Erramouspe cleared Sgt. Mascorro of any

criminal wrong doing in the shooting death of Buck Laramore. Our policy models the Wyoming law and the Town believes Sgt. Mascaro did not violate policy or the law.

Mayor Adam Estenson, with the counsel and guidance of Town Attorney Marshall Keller, has completed an extensive review of the DCI investigation, State statutes, case law and Town policies. This decision was not made lightly or rashly. In this research and due diligence, Mayor Estenson believes returning Sgt. Mascorro to full duty is prudent, responsible and in the best interest of the community of Thermopolis. Chief Pat Cornwell has informed Mayor Estenson that Sgt. Mascorro will return to his full duties effective June 5th, 2024.

“I acknowledge that it is a possibility POST could hold an administrative hearing on this matter at a later date. There is the possibility that POST arrives at a different legal opinion than the legal opinion of Mr. Keller and myself. Spending much more time on the matter, we arrived at a different legal opinion than Mr. Erramouspe. There is the possibility that POST could revoke Sgt. Mascorro’s license. We will deal with that potentiality if it becomes a reality. Chief Cornwell and I are constantly looking for ways to improve the Department and build trust within our community. I am proud of our community’s ability to debate this matter with a great respect of the dignity of all involved. I look forward to continued conversation on what policing looks like for Thermopolis into the future. I have full confidence in our Police Department to protect and serve this community.” - Mayor Adam Estenson

For further inquiries or additional information, please contact investigating agencies or:

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