



Multnomah County District Attorney's Office

Prosecution Decline Memo

October 8, 2026

Agency: Portland Police Bureau
Referring Officer: Meghan H Burkeen
DPSST #: 40396
Incident #: 42 26-279642
Email declines to: **Agency email AND referring officer**
dadecline@police.portlandoregon.gov; Meghan.Burkeen@police.portlandoregon.gov

DA File # 051-1122815 **DDA:** Todd T Jackson

Case Status: Closed **Unit:** Administration

Defendant: Death 051-1122815 Investigation **DOB:**

<u>Charge</u>	<u>Date of Crime</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Death Investigation	09/24/2026	Rejected: Legal Impediment

<u>Co-def File #s</u>	<u>Co-Defendant(s):</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Case Status</u>
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Memo:

On September 24, 2026, four members of the U.S. Marshals Service Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Task Force (Task Force) used deadly physical force against Eddie Campbell that resulted in Mr. Campbell's death. Incidents involving the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers have a profound impact on families, communities, and the officers involved. We also recognize the tremendous loss the Campbell family in particular has experienced. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office remains steadfast in its commitment to transparency, accountability, and providing the community with clear and timely information. Our deepest sympathies extend to all who have been affected by this tragic loss of life.

The Portland Police Bureau conducted an investigation into the September 24, 2026 incident. Multnomah County District Attorney Nathan Vasquez and Chief Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson responded to the scene to assist in and oversee the investigation. Upon submission to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Chief Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson reviewed the investigation and concluded the use of force by the four involved members was justified under Oregon law and therefore not criminal.

This incident was captured on multiple angles of body worn camera (BWC) footage that contained both video and audio of the involved members' actions, commercial and private citizen surveillance video, aerial surveillance video from a law enforcement fixed-wing aircraft, and independent eye-witness accounts. As such, in the discretion of the Multnomah County District Attorney, this investigation will not be presented to the grand jury as there are no material facts in dispute related to the incident. Multnomah County

District Attorney Policy 5.10 (Investigation of Law Enforcement-Involved Deaths/Serious Physical Injury) allows this discretion when grand jury review is unwarranted.

The following is a summary of the relevant facts and applicable law:

On the morning of September 24, 2026, Gresham Police Officers responded to a residence located in Gresham, Oregon to conduct a welfare check. Responding officers located an individual, later identified as 60-year-old Jeff Thompson, alone inside deceased. He appeared to have been shot in the head. They secured the scene and notified supervisors of their findings. The East County Major Crimes Team, comprised of detectives from the Gresham Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Port of Portland Police Department, and Oregon State Police initiated a homicide investigation. During the course of their investigation, they learned that Mr. Thompson's vehicle was missing from his driveway. They also learned from a witness that an individual had been seen at the residence the previous evening, on September 23, 2026, interacting with Mr. Thompson. A short time after the individual was reportedly seen going into the residence with Mr. Thompson, detectives observed Mr. Thompson's missing vehicle leaving the area on surveillance video. Detectives entered Mr. Thompson's license plate as a "plate of interest" in the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) system, and got an alert from a third-party commercial vehicle indicating the plate was scanned in the area of the Montavilla Motel near SE 99th Ave & SE Pine St in Portland, Oregon. Detectives went to the area and located the vehicle parked on the street. They saw an individual coming and going from the vehicle who matched the physical description and clothing of the person the witness described entering the house with Mr. Thompson on the evening of September 23rd, shortly before he is believed to have been killed. Detectives suspected this was the individual responsible for Jeff Thompson's murder. Detectives attempted to identify this suspect through a review of various reports. At the conclusion of that review, they believed him to be a person who had a prior recent connection to Jeff Thompson and his female associate, and had an active warrant for arrest for a firearms-related offense. Detectives continued to surveil the suspect and coordinated with the U.S. Marshals Task Force to have him arrested on the warrant for questioning related to Jeff Thompson's murder. This suspect was subsequently identified as Eddie Campbell, a different person than detectives initially thought, but who also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest due to a post-prison supervision violation for a weapons offense.

The U.S. Marshals Task Force is a group of law enforcement officers comprised of Federal U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement officials including members of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, and Portland Police Bureau. They work together in the Portland Metropolitan Area to track and arrest high-risk wanted fugitives. They wear vests that prominently display that they are members of law enforcement.

At approximately 1:48 p.m. on September 24, 2026, Task Force members approached

Mr. Campbell in two vehicles and contacted him on the north side of the Montavilla Motel along SE Pine St. Mr. Campbell almost immediately began running west along SE Pine St, crossing SE 99th Ave. Two civilian witnesses positioned along SE 99th Ave reported seeing Mr. Campbell running across the street with what appeared to be a silver object in his hand, one believing it was a silver firearm. Aerial surveillance showed Mr. Campbell approach a vehicle driving eastbound on SE Pine St near the next block at SE 97th Ave. Mr. Campbell attempted to enter and take over the vehicle. The female driver reported that Mr. Campbell tried to get her out of the vehicle, but she refused and hit the accelerator. Mr. Campbell entered the driver's seat with the female driver as the vehicle began traveling rapidly eastbound on SE Pine St. As it approached SE 99th Ave, Task Force Member and Portland Police K9 Officer Jerry Ables and his K9 Kylo turned westbound onto SE Pine St effectively blocking the roadway. The female's vehicle slowed to a stop before accelerating again. Mr. Campbell exited the driver's seat, ran alongside it for a few steps, then abandoned the vehicle and proceeded to run back westbound down SE Pine St. toward SE 97th Ave.

Officer Ables pursued Mr. Campbell with the original two Task Force vehicles following until they reached SE 97th Ave. At that point, Officer Ables began stopping his vehicle and issued warnings that if Mr. Campbell did not stop running, he would send his K9 Kylo. Mr. Campbell did not stop so Officer Ables sent Kylo after him and pursued them on foot.

Mr. Campbell continued to run on SE Pine St then turned south onto SE 97th Ave. He ran into the parking lot of the Chestnut Tree Inn at 9699 SE Stark St with Kylo following closely behind. At that time, Task Force Member and Portland Police Officer Kameron Fender was northbound on SE 97th Ave and saw Mr. Campbell in the parking lot with Kylo. As he exited his patrol vehicle, he immediately began issuing commands that Mr. Campbell stop and get on the ground or he would be bitten by the K9. Kylo caught Mr. Campbell in the north end of the parking lot, likely by his backpack – no obvious dog bite marks were observed on Mr. Campbell's body at his autopsy and surveillance video shows Kylo appear to latch onto the backpack as he is dragging Mr. Campbell to the ground, and still have the backpack in his mouth at the time of the shooting. As Kylo pulled Mr. Campbell to the ground, Officer Ables entered the parking lot and began issuing commands to Mr. Campbell to get on the ground and show his hands / put his hands out.

At this point, Kylo had Mr. Campbell on the ground facing Officer Fender who was approaching from the south. Officer Ables was positioned perpendicular to them to the east forming a triangle that essentially boxed Mr. Campbell in against the building behind. Other Task Force Members had arrived in the original two vehicles and were approaching the parking lot on foot. Task Force Member and Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Christian Diaz, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Aaron Pfenning had rifles as they moved in from SE 97th Ave.

Both Officers Fender and Ables reported they then saw Mr. Campbell produce a firearm. A civilian witness sitting in his car toward the south end of the parking lot also saw Mr. Campbell on the ground with something in his hand pointing at the officers. BWC from both Officers Fender and Ables clearly shows the firearm, later identified as a .22 caliber semi-automatic silver Jennings handgun, appear in Mr. Campbell's right hand as he is on ground in front of the officers. He then holds it with both hands appearing to point it directly in Officer Fender's direction before transferring it to his left hand. Both officers repeatedly commanded Mr. Campbell to drop the gun. This was captured on their BWC footage as well as heard by the civilian witness sitting in his car. When Mr. Campbell did not drop the gun, both officers fired upon him. Additionally, Deputy Diaz and Deputy U.S. Marshal Pfenning both fired. After the officers began firing, BWC footage shows the firearm fall from Mr. Campbell's hand to the ground. At the time of the shooting, Officer Fender was standing approximately 21 feet away from Mr. Campbell, and Officer Ables was approximately 15 feet from Mr. Campbell. Both officers were in the open without cover. Deputy Diaz and Deputy U.S. Marshal Pfenning were between 35-40 feet from Mr. Campbell.

Officer Ables described in his statement seeing the firearm in Mr. Campbell's hand and that he was manipulating it. He gave commands to drop the gun that Mr. Campbell did not obey. He believed Mr. Campbell was preparing to shoot him or other officers, and believing he needed to defend himself and the others, fired his gun. He stopped firing when he saw the gun drop to the ground. Officer Fender described that as he approached Mr. Campbell, he saw his right arm move in front of his body and that an object was in his hand. As the hand swung out and across his body, Officer Fender saw it was a firearm. Mr. Campbell then moved the gun out and away from his body, pointing it at him. At that moment, Officer Fender believed he and other officers were about to be shot. He gave commands to Mr. Campbell to drop the gun, and when he did not, he fired. Hearing other officers firing, he stopped and went to try to find cover as he was completely exposed in the parking lot. Deputy U.S. Marshal Pfenning described getting out of his vehicle and approached the parking lot. He heard gunshots and saw Mr. Campbell on the ground with a firearm next to him. He perceived Mr. Campbell reach in the direction of the firearm so he fired one time. Seeing Mr. Campbell retract, he did not fire again. Deputy Diaz described exiting his vehicle and hearing commands being given to Mr. Campbell as he approached the parking lot. He then heard gunfire but did not know who was firing. He described seeing Mr. Campbell with a firearm in his hand pointed in his direction. Fearing that himself or the other officers would be shot by Mr. Campbell, he fired. After seeing that Mr. Campbell had dropped the gun, he did not fire any additional rounds.

The involved members' BWC footage confirms that all of the described shots were essentially fired simultaneously. Based on round counts conducted on the involved members' firearms and cartridge casings found at the scene, detectives determined that a total of 13 rounds were fired, which according to Medical Examiner Dr. Henry McNett's findings at the autopsy, struck Mr. Campbell approximately 10 times in the front torso

area and arms. During the autopsy, preliminary toxicology results indicated Mr. Campbell had THC, methamphetamine, and ethanol in his system. Officer Ables fired four rounds, Officer Fender fired five rounds, Deputy Diaz fired three rounds, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Pfenning fired one round. Kylo was right behind Mr. Campbell when the shooting occurred and appeared to still be holding onto the backpack Mr. Campbell was wearing. He was hit by some of the rounds and was later, upon the recommendation of veterinary personnel, euthanized due to his injuries.

Immediately following the shooting, Task Force Members moved up to Mr. Campbell and called for medical. They swept the firearm away from him and then placed him in handcuffs. Within a minute of the shooting, Portland Police Officers on patrol arrived at the scene and began rendering emergency medical aid to Mr. Campbell. Approximately five minutes after the shooting, paramedics arrived on scene and by seven minutes they had taken over rendering medical care. Shortly thereafter, they declared Mr. Campbell deceased at approximately 1:59 p.m.

The entire incident, from the Task Force Members' initial contact with Mr. Campbell on the north side of the Montavilla Motel to the shooting in the Chestnut Tree Inn parking lot, occurred in approximately a minute and a half (1.5 minutes) of time.

Detectives examined Mr. Campbell's firearm and found the magazine missing and the chamber of the firearm empty, but an unfired live .22 caliber round was located on ground next to Mr. Campbell's body. He also had loose unfired live .22 caliber rounds in his pants pocket. The magazine for Mr. Campbell's gun was located on the sidewalk along SE 97th Ave where he had run, shortly before entering the Chestnut Tree Inn parking lot. Detectives entered Mr. Campbell's firearm into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted a correlation review of a cartridge casing from the .22 caliber firearm against the .22 caliber cartridge casings located at the scene of Jeff Thompson's murder in Gresham, and concluded there was a presumptive significant link between the two and sent an investigative lead notification to the agencies. This evidence will be forwarded to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab for confirmation per normal protocol.

The following is an overview of Oregon criminal law that is applicable to the Task Force Members' use of force against Mr. Campbell:

Under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 161.195, conduct which would otherwise constitute an offense is justifiable and not criminal when it is authorized by law. ORS 161.209 establishes that a person is justified in using physical force upon another person for self-defense or to defend a third person from what the person reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force, and the person may use a degree of force which the person reasonably believes to be necessary for the purpose.

In conjunction with the requirements of ORS 161.209, ORS 161.219 limits the use of deadly physical force in defense to a situation in which a person reasonably believes another person is committing or attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened imminent use of physical force against a person, or is using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force against a person.

For police officers, ORS 161.242 states that a peace officer may use deadly physical force upon another person only when it is objectively reasonable, under the totality of circumstances known to the peace officer, to believe that the person poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to a person and the use of deadly physical force is necessary to defend the person from the imminent threat of death or serious physical injury.

ORS 161.242 goes on to state that prior to using deadly physical force upon another person, if the peace officer has a reasonable opportunity to do so, the peace officer shall consider alternatives such as verbal de-escalation, waiting, using other available resources and techniques if reasonable, safe and feasible, or using a lesser degree of force; and give a verbal warning to the person that deadly physical force may be used and provide the person with a reasonable opportunity to comply.

In this instance, Task Force Members were attempting to apprehend Mr. Campbell in connection with a murder investigation that involved his use of a firearm the previous evening. He immediately ran from the Task Force Members' initial contact, and according to civilian witnesses who saw his initial flight, had a silver firearm in his hand as he ran. Shortly thereafter, he attempted to carjack a stranger's vehicle in an effort to get away. When that failed, he continued to run despite commands to stop and warnings that a police K9 would be sent after him. Once he entered the parking lot of the Chestnut Tree Inn, K9 Kylo caught him. As officers closed in around him, and he was cornered in the parking lot with Kylo holding him down on the ground, he produced the silver firearm and pointed it at the approaching officers. Under these circumstances, the officers and deputies reasonably believed he presented a deadly threat to them. Despite being confronted with this deadly threat, the officers closest to Mr. Campbell – Officers Fender and Ables – both gave commands to drop the gun prior to firing. When they did not see compliance with these commands, they fired. Deputies Diaz and Pfenning, based on their positioning and the timing of their approach in the sequence of events, did not have a reasonable opportunity to issue commands and acted to address the immediate threat presented to them. None of the officers or deputies could reasonably have utilized lesser degrees of force or alternatives given the speed with which Mr. Campbell produced the firearm, the dynamic nature of the situation, and their close proximity to him without viable cover. These actions forced the officers to respond immediately, despite Kylo being so close to Mr. Campbell and in the potential line of fire. Under the totality of the circumstances, taking into account all of the video and audio evidence, witness statements, forensic evidence, and the accounts of Officer

Ables, Officer Fender, Deputy Diaz, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Pfenning, they reasonably believed that they needed to use deadly force against Mr. Campbell or they would be shot and killed. This remains true even with Kylo being in danger of being hit, as they had no other reasonably viable alternatives available to them given the immediate deadly threat Mr. Campbell presented.

The facts and evidence in this investigation conclusively establish that Portland Police Officers Jerry Ables and Kameron Fender, Clackamas County Deputy Christian Diaz, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Aaron Pfenning's use of deadly force against Eddie Campbell on September 24, 2026, that resulted in his death and the death of Kylo, was justified under Oregon criminal law and therefore not criminal.

DDA Todd Jackson
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