

June 22, 2022

**For Immediate Release:**

Through their attorneys at RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI LLC, the Estate of John “Johnny” Hurley and Johnny’s mother, Kathleen Boleyn, have filed a lawsuit against Arvada Police Department (“APD”) Chief of Police Link Strate and former APD officer Kraig Brownlow for the fatal shooting of Johnny Hurley on June 21, 2021. This case is being brought to hold Chief Strate and Officer Brownlow accountable for the unlawful use of deadly force.

One year from yesterday, Johnny heroically stopped an active shooter in Olde Town Arvada. Armed with only a concealed carry pistol, Johnny rushed toward the threat. He did not worry about his own safety but instinctively acted to protect others.

Johnny was not the only person at Olde Town Arvada who had the ability to engage the shooter. At least three Arvada Police Department (“APD”) officers heard gunshots and observed the shooter (Ronald Troyke). But instead of rushing toward Troyke, these APD officers took no action to stop him. The APD officers chose to stay inside of their administrative office and left the civilian population to defend themselves. If not for Johnny’s intervention, there is no telling how many lives Troyke would have claimed.

After Johnny stopped Troyke, he picked up the fallen assault rifle and began removing the magazine to make the weapon safe. Observing Johnny for at least eleven seconds, Officer Brownlow saw that Johnny was stationary and hunched over, removing the magazine of the rifle (which was pointed at the ground), and holstering his pistol. Johnny was not making any verbal or physical threats. And no reasonable person could believe that Johnny was the active shooter whom Officer Brownlow had previously identified.



*Troyke on the left in black shirt; Johnny on the right in red shirt*

Under these circumstances, it was unlawful to use deadly force against Johnny, who was merely unloading a weapon and not posing any threat whatsoever. Even more egregiously, Officer Brownlow shot and killed Johnny **without any warning or command**. The contrast between Johnny's actions and Officer Brownlow's actions could hardly be more stark. Whereas Johnny ran toward an active shooter with an assault rifle, Officer Brownlow shot Johnny in the back without so much as a warning.

This lawsuit will show that Officer Brownlow's use of deadly force violated Johnny's rights under the Colorado Constitution. The lawsuit will also show that Officer Brownlow's unconstitutional action was caused by Chief Strate through his approval of policies and training that permit the use of deadly force beyond the constitutional standard. This lawsuit will hold those responsible for Johnny's death accountable for their unlawful conduct.

The Hurley family also wishes to recognize that June 21, 2021 was a tragic day for the Arvada Police Department and for the family of Officer Beesley. Violence against law enforcement is never acceptable.

**Contacts:**

Matthew Cron (mc@rmlawyers.com)  
Siddhartha Rathod (sr@rmlawyers.com)  
Omeed Azmoudeh (oa@rmlawyers.com)  
Crist Whitney (cw@rmlawyers.com)  
Qusair Mohamedbhai (qm@rmlawyers.com)

**Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC**  
**303-578-4400**  
www.rmlawyers.com