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August 21, 2025

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RE: Use of Force Incident review – Nathan Koman

I have been requested to review a use of force incident that occurred on July 11, 2025 at approximately 16:30 hours, between members of the Meadville City Police Department and Nathan Koman. I have reviewed various police reports, videos, statements, policies and an independent review pertaining to the aforementioned incident.

18 Pa.C.S.A. §508, Use of force in law enforcement, states that when making a lawful arrest, a peace officer is justified in the use of any force which he believes to be necessary to effect the arrest and of any force which he believes to be necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making the arrest. Further §508(a)(1) explains justification in the use of deadly force to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or such other person.

In this case, no deadly force was used by law enforcement. No deadly weapon and no chokehold was employed. The officers in this case were justified in using the force they did under the totality of the circumstances. This was a lawful arrest pursuant to a valid felony arrest warrant. Koman was clearly resisting to the extent that the police were required to use substantial, non-deadly force to gain Koman's compliance and place him under arrest. Koman was given multiple opportunities to voluntarily turn himself over to police custody but chose not to comply after multiple warnings to do so. Summarily, Koman was advised numerous times of each of the following: that there was a warrant for his arrest, to get off of his bike, to turn around, that he would be tased, to put his hands behind his back and to get on the ground – all to no avail. Koman continually put up physical resistance against the efforts of the officers to place him under arrest. The officers used the appropriate continuum of force (including use of a taser, which had no effect, and hand strikes) to gain his compliance. Koman received minimal injury, if any, due to his own resistance. The minimal force was necessary to prevent the arrest from

being defeated by Koman's resistance or escape. Further, Koman, by his actions, otherwise evidenced that he would endanger himself or others and possibly inflict further, more serious injury, unless arrested without further delay. He appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance, was 6'2" tall and approximately 250 pounds and tasing had no effect on Mr. Koman.

After his arrest, Koman was immediately placed in a police vehicle and transported to the Meadville Medical Center for evaluation and treatment of any possible injuries. While at the hospital, Koman was speaking with officers and apologized for his behavior. Mr. Koman was released from the hospital after being cleared of any injuries and without need of further medical treatment.

Based on my review, I conclude that the Meadville City police officers acted reasonably, used a reasonable amount of force and complied with department policies when they placed Mr. Koman under arrest. Additionally, the City of Meadville, at the request of the City Manager, had an independent review of the arrest and that review also concluded that excessive force was not used during Mr. Koman's arrest. Further, prima facie proof of the crime of Resisting Arrest was established at a preliminary hearing and the charge of Resisting Arrest by was bound over to the Court of Common Pleas after a preliminary hearing was held in the matter. Mr. Koman is innocent of the crimes with which he is charged until proven guilty in a court of law.

Paula DiGiacomo

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