



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Police Chief
605 N. Capital Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Falls Police Department Contact

Jessica Clements
Public Information Officer
Work: (208) 612-8655
jclements@idahofalls.gov

EconoLodge Officer Involved Shooting Body Camera Release

Idaho Falls, ID – On April 8, 2024, Idaho Falls Police Officers were involved in a shooting incident at the EconoLodge. Today, the Idaho Falls Police Department, released the body camera footage from officers involved in the incident. IFPD routinely releases body camera video from officer involved critical incidents, believing that community members deserve to know what police officers are doing and experiencing as they serve the Idaho Falls community.

“I do not have words to express the pride I have in what these Idaho Falls Police Officers do,” said Idaho Falls Police Chief Bryce Johnson. “Their courage under fire. Their extreme restraint, even as they are being shot at. Their tactical planning beforehand. Their response to try to keep people safe.”

At 1:16 p.m. on April 8, 2024, hotel staff at the EconoLodge on West Broadway Street called Idaho Falls Police dispatch and requested Idaho Falls Police Officers respond to assist with removing two tenants who had stayed past check out time and would not leave. Officers were not immediately available and responded to the hotel around 3:00 p.m.

Hotel staff had told dispatch that the tenants were Robert Flores and another woman. Throughout the incident, officers believed that woman was in the room as well. Ultimately, at the conclusion of the incident the woman was not found in the hotel room. Through investigation, officers learned that she had left earlier in the day. The woman had no further involvement in the incident.

Due to prior knowledge of Robert Flores, including criminal history and past interactions with law enforcement, multiple police officers responded. Seven Idaho Falls Police Officers were involved in the initial response. Six officers were inside the hotel. One was outside, watching the room’s window. The officers also brought police tools including a ballistic shield and a police K9.

Officers started trying to contact Flores and the woman through the door around 3:20 p.m. Officers knocked on the door and announced that they were Idaho Falls Police Officers. Officers called to the two by name and stated multiple times that the two were not under arrest, that they did not have warrants, but that they did need to leave the hotel.

After several attempts to communicate with Flores and the woman with no answer, officers stated the two were now under arrest for trespassing and needed to come to the door. Officers used a key card to access the room, then kicked the door to break a security chain.

The door to the bathroom was shut when officers entered the room. Officers checked the rest of the room, then refocused on the bathroom.

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Officers again tried to communicate with Flores and the woman through the bathroom door but did not receive any response. Idaho Falls Police K9 Officer Mitchall Bierma moved into position outside the bathroom door with his K9 partner, Argo, and prepared to send the K9 into the bathroom. Another officer and a sergeant were standing near Officer Bierma. Idaho Falls Police Officer Shayden Nagle was holding a ballistic shield and standing on the far side of the bathroom doorway. Two other officers were standing behind him in a stack behind the ballistic shield.

Officer Bierma made announcements for anyone inside the bathroom to come out or police would send a dog in and they would get bit. As the sergeant began to turn the handle to the bathroom door, Flores fired a shot through the door. This shot struck the center of the ballistic shield being held by Officer Nagle.

Officer Bierma, Argo, the sergeant and the third police officer who had been in the doorway retreated into the hallway, with two going one direction and Officer Bierma going the other. As officers were retreating out of the room and responding to gunfire, the police K9 bit the sergeant on the arm.

Officer Nagle and the two officers with him retreated into the room collapsing into the corner of the room behind the ballistic shield.

Just as Officer Nagle and the two officers with him inside the room were getting the shield in place, Flores reached out of the bathroom with a Glock 44 held in both hands and pointed it towards the officers in the room.

Officer Nagle fired three rounds from his service weapon at Flores. Officer Nagle's rounds went through the drywall into the bathroom. Two rounds struck Flores. Flores shot twice, missing the officers. Officer Bierma fired two rounds towards Flores from the hallway.

The three officers inside the room stayed behind the shield in the corner of the room for 23 minutes until they could be evacuated by additional officers through the window. Throughout the 23 minutes, officers could hear Flores moving, coughing, and making other sounds but he did not respond to Officers. During this time additional officers responded and evacuated other hotel guests and staff.

Specialty teams including the IFPD SWAT team, Unmanned Aerial Systems (drone) team, Crisis Negotiators, and others were also activated to respond. Various visuals provided by drones and robots showed that Flores was still moving. IFPD used several different methods to try to communicate with Flores with no response.

Around 5:30 p.m. Idaho Falls SWAT officers utilized a flash bang then made entry into the room and took Flores into custody. SWAT officers carried Flores out to Idaho Falls Fire Tactical Medics, staged just outside the hotel, who began medical treatment and transported Flores to the hospital. Flores was in Idaho Falls Police custody while receiving in-person medical treatment for several days.

Robert Flores was booked into the Bonneville County Jail on April 17th and was arrested for six counts Felony Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, Felony Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Misdemeanor Resisting and Obstructing, Misdemeanor Trespassing. Flores is currently being held on a \$1,000,000 bond.

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“In the body camera video one of our officers, after being evacuated from the room, said, ‘I’ve never felt so vulnerable before,’” said Chief Johnson. “In other video shortly after the shooting two officers say to each other, ‘I’m tired of being shot at.’ and ‘I’m tired of it too.’”

This incident marks the third time that Idaho Falls Police Officers have been shot at in the last five months. On December 4th, a suspect shot at Idaho Falls Police Officer Bierma as he was responding to help an Idaho State Police Trooper. On January 8th, Idaho Falls Police Officer Oscar Rosales was shot at by a suspect who had outstanding arrest warrants and was fleeing from a traffic stop.

Of the seven officers who initially responded to the EconoLodge on April 8th, 2024, more than half are veterans of the United States Armed Forces. All of them are husbands, fathers, or both. The two Idaho Falls Police Officers who discharged their service weapons during this incident at Officer Mitchall Bierma and Officer Shayden Nagle. Officer Bierma is an Arrest Control/Defensive Tactics Instructor, a Less Lethal Instructor, a Firearms Instructor, and is Crisis Intervention Team certified. He and K9 Argo have been partners for almost four years.

“Officer Bierma is a veteran, a husband, and a father,” said Chief Johnson, “Of the three who were trapped in the hotel room, all three are fathers with young children at home. One is currently serving in the Idaho National Guard. One is a veteran and was a beloved School Resource Officer at a local middle school not long ago.”

“Officer Shayden Nagle has been an Idaho Falls Police Officer since November of 2022. We don’t quite call him a rookie anymore, but he is just about as close to a rookie as he can be without us being able to call him one still. Had he not been holding the ballistic shield, that round would have hit him. Officer Nagle is 23 years old. He is a husband and has a new little baby at home.”

The Idaho Falls Police Department would like to thank our partners at the Bonneville County Sheriff’s Office who immediately responded alongside our officers and worked to get our officers safely evacuated. IFPD would also like to thank the Idaho Falls Fire Department for the assistance of their Tactical Medics and EMS personnel throughout the incident.

The Idaho Falls Police Department released a video that includes body camera video along with written descriptions of the incident. That video is available on the [Idaho Falls Police Department’s YouTube page](#). Additional body camera footage from this incident is available by filing a public records request on the Idaho Falls Police website.

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