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September 19, 2025

Mr. Reyes Medrano Jr.
City of Tolleson
City Manager
9055 W. Van Buren Street
Tolleson, Arizona 85353

Ms. Crystal Zamora
City of Tolleson
City Clerk
9055 W. Van Buren Street
Tolleson, Arizona 85353

Officer Manuel R. Maltos
Tolleson Police Department
8350 W. Van Buren Street
Tolleson, Arizona 85353

Officer Anthony A. Olvera
Tolleson Police Department
8350 W. Van Buren Street
Tolleson, Arizona 85353

Claimant: Ricky Henry Barron
Officer involved shooting: 03/28/2025

Ricky Henry Barron gives notice of his claims for personal injuries pursuant to A.R.S §12-821.01.

Nature of the Claim:

Two Tolleson police officers fire 32 nine-millimeter rounds at an unarmed man not charged with a crime, striking him at least 13 times.

On March 28, 2025, Tolleson Police Officers Manuel Maltos and Anthony Olvera fired at least 32 nine-millimeter rounds at Ricky Barron, hitting him at least 13 times. Ricky, a thirty-five-year-old, single father of twin fourteen-year-old girls, was unarmed, not subject to an arrest warrant, did not attempt to assault either officer, and was never charged with a crime in connection with the incident.

The events leading to the shooting started the evening before the incident. On March 27, 2025, at approximately 5:08 p.m., a Circle K clerk called the Tolleson Police Department to report that a female had shoplifted two cans of beer from the store and left in a gray Nissan truck. At about 2:08 a.m. on March 28, 2025, Officer Maltos and Officer Olvera responded to an "attempt to locate" the Nissan truck suspected of involvement in the shoplifting incident at the Circle K.

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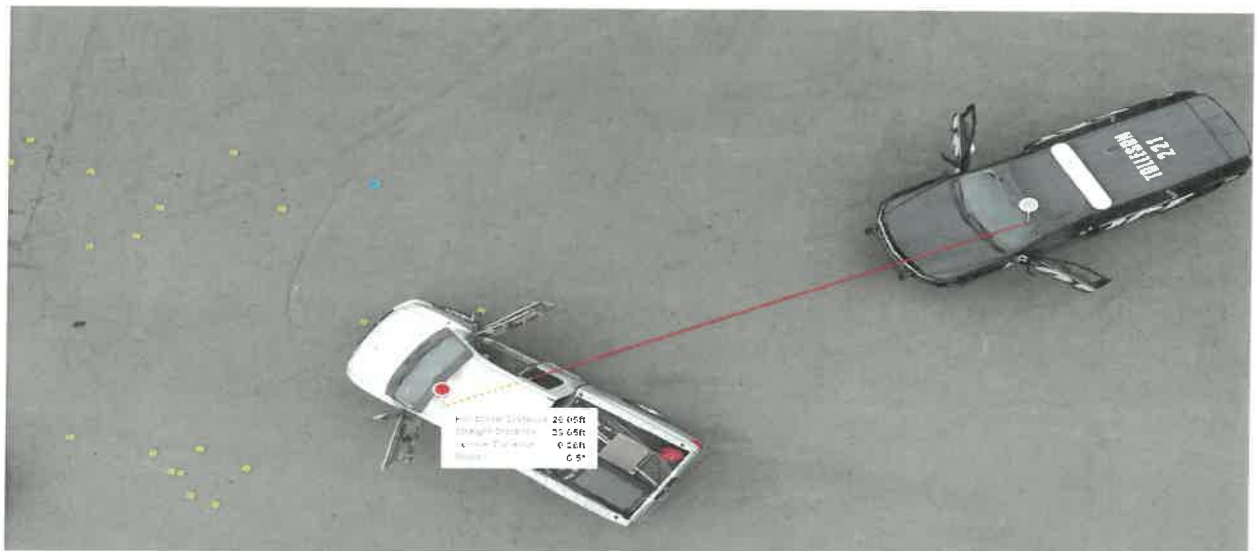
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Officer Maltos saw a silver Nissan truck near 92nd Avenue and Buckeye Road. Maltos followed the truck into the Mesa Cold Storage facility at 9602 West Buckeye Road in Tolleson, Arizona. At 2:10:57 a.m., Maltos called out over his police radio, “I have it [the Nissan truck] at 97th and Buckeye, [it] just pulled into the warehouse there with the ice plant.”



At approximately 2:11 a.m., the Nissan truck stopped. Maltos put his police cruiser in park, got out of the car, and immediately drew his weapon, a Sig Sauer nine-millimeter automatic pistol fully loaded with sixteen rounds of ammunition. Maltos was over 29 feet from the unidentified driver of the Nissan truck. To the best of Maltos' knowledge, at most, the driver was a potential suspect in the theft of two cans of beer from a convenience store, a non-violent, low-level misdemeanor. Because the unidentified driver of the truck was male, a simple glance at the driver would have ruled him out as a suspect of the theft of the two beers.



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Instead of asking the driver of the truck to identify himself, immediately upon exiting his vehicle, Maltos pointed his pistol at the driver and shouted, “I’ll shoot your ass.” Eleven seconds later, still yards away from the Nissan truck, Maltos fires 6 nine-millimeter rounds into the cab of the truck. Officer Olvera arrives at the scene, exits his vehicle and immediately fires 6 more bullets into the cab of the truck.



(Officer M. Maltos, Tolleson Police Dept., police body camera 03/28/2025).



(Officer A. Olvera, Tolleson Police Dept., police body camera 03/28/2025).

In the midst of this crossfire, the driver of the truck stumbles out of the vehicle and tries to avoid getting killed by moving away from Maltos. Instead of increasing the distance

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between himself and the driver to insulate himself from potential danger, Maltos fires 8 more bullets at the driver, while Olvera simultaneously fires 9 more bullets at the driver. Already suffering from several gunshot wounds, the driver of the truck staggers 17.15 feet away from his vehicle and Maltos and Olvera.



(The large dark spot on the right side of the photograph marked by a red dot is Ricky's blood.)



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Finally, after having already shot the unidentified driver multiple times who has now fallen to his knees, at 2:12:32 a.m., Olvera shoots the driver one more time, hitting him squarely in the upper chest. The shooting finally stops, and the driver collapses in a growing puddle of his own blood.

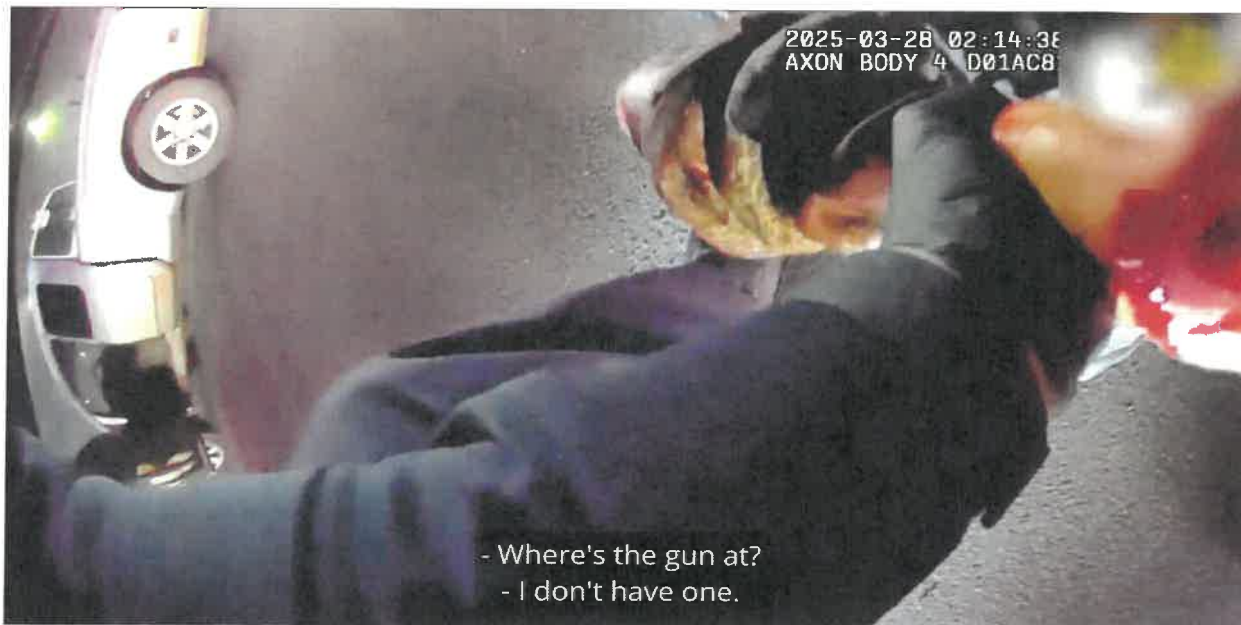


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Olvera then moves in on the driver, handcuffs him, and asks him, “Where’s the gun at?” to which the driver replies, “I don’t have one.”



Ricky Barron was unarmed, committed no crime, and presented no threat to Maltos, Olvera, or anyone else. Maltos and Olvera simply shot down Ricky Barron in cold blood.

Maltos and Olvera’s admissions after the shooting prove their recklessness.

The Buckeye Police Department investigated the shooting as part of the West Valley Critical Incident Response Team. After examining the scene of the shooting, Buckeye Police Detective James Jackson reported that:

[We] were unable to locate any firearms or casings from the interior of the Nissan truck. All the shell casings located on the scene matched the brand of ammo that was issued to the two Tolleson police officers. The number of casings located at the scene also matched the number of shots fired by both officers.

(Exhibit 1: Buckeye Police Dept. Report No. 25-0328015 at p. 77).

Notwithstanding the fact that Ricky Barron was unarmed and was always *at least* 17.5 feet away from the officers when they unloaded their multi-round weapons at him, Officers Maltos and Olvera wildly misperceived the facts of the shooting. For example, Maltos told Detective Jackson that Ricky Barron pointed “a gun in my face,” when in fact Ricky never had a gun.

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Maltos: I saw a flash and I heard a bang. And I thought he shot me. And I just remember shooting the center of the truck where he was seated in the driver's seat. And as I'm shooting, I hear gunshots. I'm hearing sounds of metal and glass and everything. I don't know if he's shooting back at me. I don't know what's going on. I just know it was so quick. Next thing I know, I just see him start to run and he's got his hands down. It looks like. I don't know if he was reaching for a gun or what he was doing. *And I, I'm just in shock because one, I was just so shocked to see him staying in the truck and pointing a gun in my face.* So, I just was like trying to figure out what all just happened. I had no recollection of how many rounds I fired, if I had hit him. I had no idea.

(Interview of Officer M. Maltos, 03/28/2025 at 7:10 am). By his own admission, Malto's lost control of himself and was engulfed in his own confusion. When you "don't know what's going on," you do not unload 16 nine-millimeter rounds at an unidentified person who doesn't even match the gender of the suspected thief of two beers.

Officer Olvera also grossly misperceived the incident. As he explained to Detective Jackson, Olvera "believed we were having a gunfight."

Olvera: So, we're shouting commands, I see 228 approach the passenger window, and I heard a loud pop, which I believe to be gunfire. Um, after the pop, um, I heard more pops sounding, like more gunfire, so *I believed we were having a gunfight.* I don't know if 228 got hit.

(Interview of Officer A. Olvera, 03/28/2025 at 7:52 am; emphasis added). In fact, there was no "gunfight," there was a two-person firing squad.

Maltos and Olvera's bizarrely inaccurate descriptions of the shooting are compelling evidence of their recklessness.

Damages:

Maltos and Olvera's recklessness almost killed an innocent man and permanently maimed and disfigured him. Members of the Tolleson Fire Department arrived at the scene of the shooting at 2:19 am. They attempted to identify and stabilize Ricky's multiple gunshot wounds. The Firefighters identified:

- 1 gunshot wound to the left buttocks;
- 2 gunshot wounds to the lower left leg, below the knee;

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- Significant deformity below the right knee, above the foot;
- 2 gunshot wounds to the upper left arm;
- 2 gunshot wounds to the upper right arm; and
- 1 gunshot wound to the center of the chest.

The Department transported Ricky to Abrazo West Hospital, arriving at the hospital's emergency room at 2:38 am. (Exhibit 2: Tolleson Fire Department – medical record).

The emergency room doctors at Abrazo West Hospital saved Ricky's life. During the initial assessment, emergency room doctors noted there were tourniquets on both legs, placed about mid-thigh. Doctors noted multiple gunshot wounds to both legs and multiple gunshot wounds to both arms. During the secondary assessment, Ricky lost his pulse and went into cardiac arrest. Emergency room staff performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Dr. Vincent McDonough, MD, performed an emergency finger thoracotomy, a procedure that required Dr. McDonough to make an incision into Ricky's chest wall to then insert his finger into the space between Ricky's lungs and the heart. Dr. McDonough then cross-clamped the aorta to stop blood flow, allowing Dr. Olson to take Ricky to the operating room for life-saving, emergency surgery.

Once in the operating room, Dr. Olsen performed an exploratory laparotomy, a surgical procedure in which Dr. Olsen cut open Ricky's abdomen to access and examine his vital organs. During the surgery, Dr. Olson found a complex liver laceration. He performed a small bowel resection, removing part of Ricky's small intestine, which eventually led to a colostomy. He also removed part of the fatty tissue surrounding the abdominal organs. Dr. Olson also repaired injuries to Ricky's colon. Ricky's abdominal incision was left open for further exploration and washout once he stabilized from the life-threatening injuries to his internal organs.



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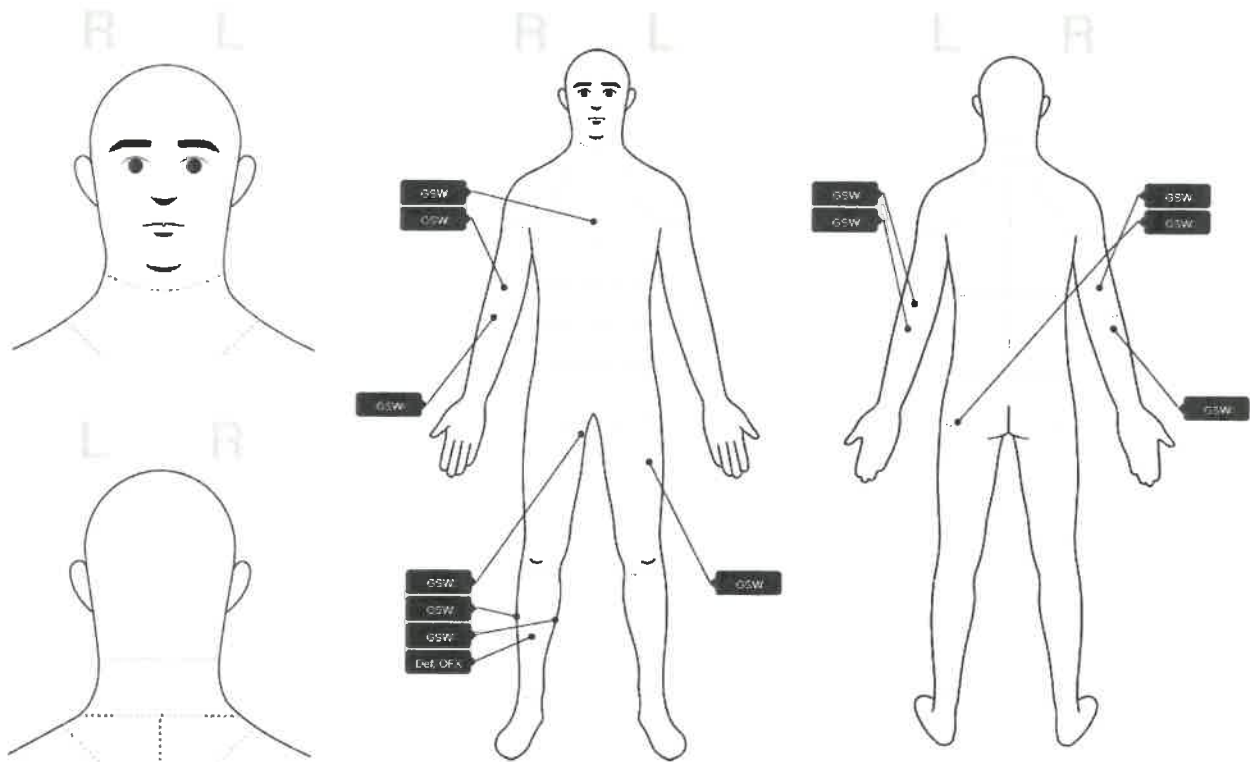
Ricky was lucky to have survived the surgery, which involved a team of gifted healthcare professionals and was only the beginning of a long and perilous struggle to try to stay alive.



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In total, the physicians at Abrazo concluded that Maltos and Olvera shot Ricky at least 13 times. The entry points of each bullet are indicated below:



Ricky was hospitalized from March 28, 2025 to May 28, 2025, as a result of the shooting. During that time, doctors performed 26 surgical procedures on him to try save his life:

- 03/28/2025 : Exploratory laparotomy;
- 03/28/2025: arm irrigation and debridement;
- 03/29/2025: abdominal laparotomy;
- 03/29/2025: abdomen wound closure;
- 03/29/2025: abdomen incision and drainage;
- 03/30/2025: open reduction internal fixation of the finger;
- 03/31/2025: open reduction internal fixation of the tibia;
- 03/31/2025: open reduction internal fixation of the radius;
- 04/03/2025: exploratory laparotomy;
- 04/04/2025: exploratory laparotomy;
- 04/05/2025: wound vac application;
- 04/05/2025: leg irrigation and debridement;
- 04/05/2025: endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography;

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- 04/05/2025: arm irrigation and debridement;
- 04/07/2025: exploratory laparotomy;
- 04/09/2025: exploratory laparotomy;
- 04/09/2025: abdomen incision and drainage;
- 04/10/2025: open reduction internal fixation of the patella;
- 04/10/2025: knee irrigation and debridement;
- 04/10/2025: arm irrigation and debridement;
- 04/11/2025: exploratory laparotomy;
- 04/11/2025: abdomen incision and drainage;
- 05/02/2025: amputation right toe;
- 05/03/2025: abdominal washout;
- 05/12/2025: repeat abdominal washout;
- 05/17/2025: partial amputation right foot third, fourth and fifth toe.

Ricky lost his right big toe and part of his right foot because of the shooting. He also suffered serious gunshot wounds in both legs. He is consequently confined to a wheelchair and may never walk again. His right leg also became infected as a result of the gunshot wounds and surgeries. If his physicians are not able to stop the infection, he is facing amputation of his right leg, sepsis, and even death.



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On May 28, 2025, Abrazo transferred Ricky to Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital for full-time nursing care. He was finally sent to his parents' home on June 12, 2025, but still requires continuous medical care and additional surgeries. (Exhibit 3: Abrazo West Hospital – medical records: ED records, consultation reports and discharge).

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The following is a partial summary of the medical expenses incurred to date:

Medical Provider	Date of Service	Amount
Abrazo West Medical Center	03/28/2025 to 05/28/2025	\$4,660,032.53
Reunion Rehabilitation	05/28/2025 to 06/12/2025	Unknown
Simon Med Imaging		Unknown
The CORE Institute		Still treating
Rapid Care Clinic		Still Treating
	Total	\$4,660,032.53

(Exhibit 4: Abrazo West Hospital – itemized billing statement).

As a result of the shooting, Ricky is unemployed and may never work again. If he is disabled, he will have also lost thirty years of future wages.

Sum Certain Demand:

Ricky seeks all damages to which he is entitled under Arizona law. This includes damages for personal injuries and special damages incurred or to be incurred in the future. Special damages may include, but are not limited to, lost wages, loss of future earning capacity, and expenses for past and future medical care and treatment. The non-economic damages include damages for past, present, and future stress, anxiety, depression, pain, suffering, disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, and loss of consortium already suffered and reasonably probable in the future. Ricky does not know what amount will be sought at trial nor are such items of harm subject to computation, calculation, or other scientific analysis. As in all such cases, Ricky will ask jurors to use their common experience to determine a fair amount for each of those items.

Ricky offers to compromise, settle, and release the City of Tolleson, its subdivisions, and agents of any kind; and Manny Maltos and Anthony Olvera for the following amounts:

1. City of Tolleson: \$135,000,000.00
2. Officer Manny Maltos: \$135,000,000.00
3. Officer Anthony Olvera: \$135,000,000.00

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Disclaimer:

Due to the unreasonably short time period provided to prepare a Notice of Claim under A.R.S. § 12-821.01, this Notice is being filed before our investigation of Ricky's claims could be completed, before disclosure and discovery, and before being able to obtain all of the documentation from the City of Tolleson and Ricky's health care providers.



Robert E. Pastor

Sincerely,



Stephen Montoya