

DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

To: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department
From: Director Gail McCant, Austin Police Oversight
Date: March 31, 2026
Subject: 2025-2324 Discipline Recommendation

Dear Chief Davis:

On September 17, 2025, Assistant Chief Michael Chancellor initiated an internal complaint directing the Austin Police Department Internal Affairs Division (IAD) to conduct an Administrative Inquiry to determine whether any violation of Department policy, Civil Service Rules, or state law had been committed by APD Police Officer Adam Reinhart, AP8946, for his actions during a critical incident.

Disposition by APD Chain of Command

The administrative inquiry was placed on hold pending review by the Travis County District Court. This matter was resolved on March 10, 2026, when charges against Officer Reinhart were declined.

On March 16, 2026, Austin Police Oversight (APO) was notified by IAD that the investigative case file had been forwarded to the officer's chain of command for disposition. On March 26, 2026, APO learned that the chain of command had recommended that the case be administratively closed without discipline.

The Administrative Inquiry involved the investigative review of the following General Order:

- APD Policy 202 Firearm Discharge Situations

APO Disposition Recommendation: Exoneration & Administrative Close

Upon review of the investigative file, I find that IAD conducted a thorough and unbiased investigation, collecting and analyzing all pertinent information related to the incident. I concur with the recommendation of the chain of command.

The investigation confirms that Police Officer Reinhart was involved in a use-of-deadly-force incident involving the discharge of his firearm. Officer Reinhart observed the suspect and another individual exiting a wooded area near a reported stolen vehicle he was in the process of recovering. Officer Reinhart approached both subjects and advised them that they were being detained. The suspect's hands were not visible to Officer Reinhart. When instructed to show his hands, the suspect produced a handgun and began firing at Officer Reinhart. Officer Reinhart returned fire, and the suspect fled back into the wooded area. When the suspect shot his initial volley toward Officer Reinhart, he shot the other person who accompanied him, and Officer Reinhart. The accompanying individual died as a result of the suspect's actions. Officer Reinhart sustained a gunshot wound to the stomach and was subsequently transported to the hospital by assisting officers. Based on the investigation, the officer's actions appear to be justified.

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The Administrative investigation revealed, “Officer Reinhart told IA he was sitting in his patrol vehicle with his windows rolled down. He stated the tow truck driver backed up to the stolen vehicle with its flood lights on, illuminating the area behind the stolen vehicle. Officer Reinhart stated he heard voices talking with the tow truck driver. When he looked, he saw two individuals standing next to the stolen vehicle. He said the tow truck driver then pointed towards Officer Reinhart and said, “*you can go talk to that officer over there.*” Officer Reinhart stated the male made eye contact with him and both individuals started to back away into the wooded trail area. He stated he thought it was suspicious and exited his vehicle and approached them. He then told them they were detained, not free to go, and to come talk with him. Officer Reinhart stated the male seemed hesitant. He said the female started walking towards him, but the male was bladed off to the side concealing his right hand. Officer Reinhart told IA he thought it was suspicious, potentially dangerous, and presented cues to deadly resistance if he was concealing a weapon. Officer Reinhart stated he told the male to show him his hands. Officer Reinhart stated the female continued walking towards him and he heard a loud bang from a gunshot, saw a “*large orange like fireball kinda come out of the front of the barrel of the gun.*” Officer Reinhart stated he then drew his weapon and began returning shots toward the suspect.”

I find that the actions of Officer Reinhart were within policy, as deadly force was used to stop a suspect armed with a handgun who was actively firing toward the officer. The suspect’s actions, as captured on Officer Reinhart’s body-worn camera, demonstrate an immediate threat that necessitated the use of deadly force. The suspect could have complied with commands to indicate he was not a threat to Officer Reinhart’s safety.

I also find that the officer did not have the opportunity to initiate additional de-escalation tactics, as the armed suspect immediately posed a threat to the officer and others nearby.

Based on the above factors, I recommend a finding of Exoneration for any policy violation and that the case be administratively closed.

In compliance with Section 2-15-5(B) of the City Code, I request the Chief to “provide a detailed public, written explanation for not following a recommendation of the Office of Police Oversight.”

Sincerely,



Gail McCant
Director
Austin Police Oversight