

## DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

**To:** Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department  
**From:** Director Gail McCant, Austin Police Oversight  
**Date:** December 10, 2025  
**Subject:** 2019-0792 Discipline Recommendation

---

Dear Chief Davis:

On August 1, 2019, Commander Jason Bryant signed an internal complaint directing the Austin Police Department Internal Affairs Division (IAD) to conduct an Administrative Inquiry to determine if any violation of Department policy, Civil Service Rules, or State law had been committed by APD Police Officer Christopher Taylor, AP7798, Police Officer Karl Krycia, AP7775, and Police Officer Joseph Cast, AP7764, in their actions during a critical incident.

### Disposition by APD Chain of Command

The Administrative Inquiry had been on hold pending litigation in the Travis County District Court, which was settled on November 21, 2025, when charges against Officer Krycia were dismissed. Officer Taylor was found guilty of Deadly Conduct by a jury, and no charges were filed against Officer Cast.

On November 25, 2025, APO was notified by the Internal Affairs Division (IAD) that the investigative case file had been forwarded to Officers Krycia and Cast's chain of command for disposition.

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

- APD General Order 200.4 Response to Resistance – Deadly Force Applications
- APD General Order 208.4 Use of Taser Device

### APO Disposition Recommendation: Exoneration

Upon reviewing the investigative file, I believe IAD conducted a straightforward and unbiased investigation that collected and analyzed the pertinent information surrounding the incident. The investigation confirms that Officers Taylor and Krycia were involved in a use of deadly force through the discharge of their firearms, and Officer Cast used less-lethal force by discharging his Taser at the suspect. Before making contact with the suspect, the officers developed a tactical plan to approach the suspect with designated lethal, less-lethal, and hands-on assignments.

Officers' body-worn camera (BWC) video shows the suspect standing in front of a mirror and holding a knife in his right hand, pointed toward his throat, as the elevator doors opened in

## DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

front of the officers. Officers Taylor and Krycia, designated lethal-force officers, aimed their handguns toward the suspect, and Officer Cast, designated less-lethal force, aimed his Taser toward the suspect. Officer Zuniga was designated as hands-on for control.

Officers told the suspect to drop the knife as he turned toward them. The suspect lowered the knife and took a step in the direction of the officers. Officer Cast is observed on BWC video deploying his Taser at the suspect as the suspect continued to hold the knife and took an additional step toward the officers. After the Taser was deployed, and as the armed suspect continued to move in their direction, Officers Taylor and Krycia began firing shots at the suspect until they could see he was down.

The suspect was struck by gunfire and fell to the floor. Officers subsequently provided medical aid to the suspect and secured the scene.

The Administrative Investigation found Officer Krycia had used deadly force against the suspect by discharging his firearm twice at the suspect. During the IAD interview, when asked if his actions were objectively reasonable and within policy, he stated, *“yes,”* advising *“Cause he, uh, he presented a deadly force option after (being) - given commands and a chance to comply. Uh, he did not comply with the commands. He still presented the deadly force and ultimately escalated the situation to the point where I had to stop him.”*

During the IAD interview, Officer Cast was asked about his decision to deploy his Taser at the suspect. He stated, in part, *“Uh, when we got to the 5th floor the doors opened. Uh, we could immediately see our subject - it was 5 feet or less from the elevator - or from us. Uh, uh, he was st- standing, facing away from us, uh, looking at a mirror with a knife. Uh, when he saw the elevator doors open he turned towards us, took the knife that was up, uh, held it down by his side, and started to advance towards us. Uh, commands - verbal commands were given for him to, “Drop the weapon.” He did not comply, um, and I fired my taser.”* IA asked Officer Cast if he believed his actions in this incident were objectively reasonable and within policy and state law, to which he answered, *“Yes.”*

I believe the actions of Officer Krycia were within policy, as deadly force was used to stop a suspect armed with a knife and advancing toward the officers. Officers instructed the suspect to drop the knife, at which point he appeared to lower his hand, but he continued to hold the knife in a way that allowed him to transition quickly into a posture of risk for the officers. The actions of the suspect, seen on BWC, demonstrate noncompliance with the officers’ commands before the use of deadly force. The suspect could have complied with commands or fled from the officers to indicate he was not a threat to their safety.

## DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

I believe the officers did not have the luxury of time or distance to allow them to reassess the situation after the Taser was deployed and before deadly force was initiated. I also believe the officers did not have time to fully initiate de-escalation techniques in accordance with their Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). The armed suspect advanced toward them immediately when the elevator doors opened, and the incident unfolded within approximately three seconds of the doors opening.

Based on the factors outlined above, I recommend a finding of Exoneration for the policy violation reviewed for Officer Krycia. Additionally, I recommend that Officer Cast's Administrative Investigation be closed with a finding of Exoneration.

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