



DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tony G. Spurlock, Sheriff

February 28, 2018

Chief John Frayar
Fort Lupton Police Department
130 S. McKinley Ave.
Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Dear John:

On December 31, 2017 at approximately 5:17am, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office responded to a verbal disturbance call at the Copper Canyon Apartments at 3404 E. County Line Road in Highlands Ranch. Upon arrival, Deputy Zackari S. Parrish requested the occupant open the front door so that Deputy Parrish could talk face-to-face with him and render aid and assistance if necessary. The occupant continued to shout incoherently through the closed door to Deputy Parrish that he needed assistance and civil protection, but refused to open the door for deputies. Based on the totality of the circumstances, Deputy Parris and Sgt. David Beyer determined that the subject was experiencing serious mental health issues that prohibited him from reasonably communicating with deputies regarding his personal safety.

Deputies developed a plan to take the subject into protective custody for his personal safety and the safety of other residents at the apartment complex. At approximately 5:57am, as deputies attempted to make entry into the apartment, the subject barricaded himself in a bedroom and without warning deputies were met with heavy gunfire.

Deputies Zackari Parrish, Taylor Davis, Michael Doyle, and Jeffrey Pelle were all hit with bullets almost immediately. Deputy Parrish sustained multiple gunshot wounds that completely incapacitated him. Deputies Taylor, Doyle, and Pelle were also hit by the subject's constant gunfire as they attempted to take cover. Two civilian residents in nearby apartments were also struck by the subject's gunfire, as well as, Reginal SWAT member Castle Rock Police Officer Tom O'Donnell when SWAT made entry into the apartment to rescue Deputy Parrish.

In the aftermath, the *Fort Lupton Police Explorer Post* played a substantial role in helping the Sheriff's Office, the injured, the community, and the family of Deputy Parrish begin to heal. You provided outstanding leadership and support in a time of great crisis, helping us properly plan the memorial service. The effort and leadership you displayed is a testament to your character and I cannot thank you enough. We could not have moved beyond the tragedy without your help and it will forever be appreciated!

Regards,



Tony G. Spurlock
Douglas County Sheriff



Robert A. Christensen Justice Center
4000 Justice Way
Castle Rock, CO 80109

303.660.7505
www.dcsheriff.net
dcsso@dcsheriff.net

★ Service Excellence ★