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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Police Officer and City of Aurora Sued for Shooting of Innocent Man in His Home on New Year’s Eve 2022

(DENVER, CO. – June 25, 2024) Duvan Jamir Fernandez Zuluaga sued former Aurora Police Officer Douglas Harroun and the City of Aurora for violations of his civil rights when Officer Harroun shot him at point-blank range while he stood in his home in Aurora, Colorado. Duvan was not accused of any crime or wrongdoing when Officer Harroun deployed the near-fatal force.

Officers from the Aurora Police Department, including Officer Harroun, arrived at Duvan’s address on December 31, 2022 because his landlords, a couple who lived in the upstairs portion of the home, were having a verbal argument. Duvan, 38 years old, otherwise healthy, and an avid soccer player, had committed no crime, and the Aurora police were not investigating him for any crime. As Officer Harroun arrested one of Duvan’s landlords, Duvan stood up from where he was sitting. Officer Harroun then pulled out his service pistol and shot him at point-blank range in his right ankle, knocking him to the floor.

Duvan underwent extensive reconstructive surgery on his right ankle and months of rehabilitation after the event. Duvan fears he will never regain the same functioning in his right ankle prior to being shot by Officer Harroun.

Duvan retained [Novo Legal Group, LLC](#), to represent him in his efforts to vindicate his civil rights. Duvan’s [complaint](#), filed today in federal court, alleges that Officer Harroun’s decision to use potentially deadly force against Duvan violated his rights under the United States and Colorado constitutions. Duvan also alleges the City of Aurora was responsible for Officer Harroun’s conduct because of its decision to hire him in 2020 along with its failures to train and supervise its officers on when and how to use force lawfully.

“In our view, the City of Aurora should have never given Officer Harroun the power to wield a firearm and use potentially deadly force” said Aaron Slade, Duvan’s attorney at Novo Legal Group. “Based on our investigation, Officer Harroun’s unlawful violations of Duvan’s rights were a product of a systemic problem of Aurora Police officers using dangerous and unnecessary force.”

In the fall of 2021, the Colorado Attorney General published the findings of a nearly two-year long investigation of the Aurora Police Department. The investigation revealed that the Aurora Police Department had a pattern and practice of officers using force beyond what is necessary. In the wake of that report, the City of Aurora entered into a court-ordered consent decree that includes, among other interventions, that the city revise its hiring and training practices.

Officer Harroun shot Duvan over a year after the city entered its consent decree, raising questions whether the city is doing enough to remedy its systemic failures.