

For Immediate Release – May 19, 2021

Contact: Jodi Lacey
Public Information Officer
laceyjl@co.larimer.co.us
(970) 498-7206



Gordon P. McLaughlin
District Attorney
Larimer & Jackson Counties

The 8th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has concluded its criminal investigation into the arrest of Karen Garner on June 26, 2020. After examining the facts of the case, the District Attorney determined that charges are applicable against two former Loveland Police Department officers.

Austin Hopp has been charged with:

- **Assault in the 2nd Degree - At Risk** C.R.S. 18-3-203(1)(g), 18-6.5-103(3)(b) (class 3 felony)
- **Attempt to Influence a Public Servant** C.R.S. 18-8-306 (class 4 felony)
- **1st Degree Official Misconduct** C.R.S. 18-8-404 (1)(c) (class 2 misdemeanor)

Daria Jalali has been charged with:

- **Failure to Perform the Duty to Report Excessive Use of Force** C.R.S. 18-8-802(1) (class 1 misdemeanor)
- **Failure to Perform the Duty to Intervene in Excessive Use of Force** C.R.S. 18-8-802(1.5) (class 1 misdemeanor)
- **1st Degree Official Misconduct** C.R.S. 18-8-404 (1)(c) (class 2 misdemeanor)

CIRT was activated on April 19, 2021. The investigation, led by Fort Collins Police Services, included identifying, locating, and conducting individual interviews with more than 20 people associated with the incident; transcribing hours of video evidence; and reviewing all reports, phone records, and any evidence available to create a comprehensive timeline of events. Investigators presented the resulting 690 pages of compiled documentation to the District Attorney for review.

“Ensuring public trust in law enforcement and in our criminal justice system is vital to our community’s safety and our fundamental belief in fairness,” said District Attorney Gordon McLaughlin. “A thorough and independent investigation by the Critical Incident Response Team was presented to my office and based on that evidence, we have found that excessive force was used, and criminal charges were therefore warranted. The charges we have filed are based both on the use of force during the arrest of Ms. Garner, and the alleged failure to perform certain duties during and after the arrest that the law and a peace officer’s sworn duties require. I believe

this decision speaks clearly to our commitment to accountability through the CIRT process and is a step toward seeking justice for Ms. Garner and her family.”

A copy of this letter has been posted at <https://www.larimer.org/da/critical-incident-response-team> and <https://www.larimer.org/da/community-relations>.

<p>The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. <i>See Colo. RPC 3.6</i></p>
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