

March 20, 2025: 4600 block of Roosevelt Boulevard (OISI: 25-09)

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, at approximately 12:50 PM, PPD officers responded to the 5000 block of Torresdale Avenue to transport Aaron Rainey to Friend's Hospital for a voluntary mental health commitment. Mr. Rainey was transported in the back of the officers' marked wagon. He was not placed in handcuffs.

Upon arrival at Friend's Hospital, two PPD officers began taking Mr. Rainey out of the wagon. Mr. Rainey began physically fighting with one of the officers. Officer Thomas Thompson attempted to tase Mr. Rainey, but it was ineffective. Mr. Rainey gained control of the other officer's gun and fired at both officers. Officer Thompson fired his gun at Mr. Rainey, striking him in the chest and leg. One of the officers was struck in the front of his ballistic vest and was injured. According to PPD's preliminary investigation, the projectile that struck the officer came from Officer Thompson's gun.

Aaron Rainey was transported to Albert Einstein Medical Center and pronounced deceased at 1:07 PM. He was a 36-year-old Black man.

Officer Thompson is a 37-year-old white man. He is assigned to the 15th District and has 9 years of service.

Video footage from multiple sources, including body-worn camera footage, depicts the incident.

The death of any person, whether a civilian or a law-enforcement officer, is a tragic outcome. Therefore, CPOC sends condolences to the family of Mr. Rainey. CPOC is also concerned about injuries that occur when deadly force is used between civilians and law enforcement officers and therefore sends condolences to the officer who was injured in this incident. CPOC is committed to a thorough review process that reflects the gravity of this incident and includes explorations of policy recommendations, if appropriate.

The circumstances surrounding this incident may connect to broader national conversations about best practices for police interactions with community members experiencing mental distress.