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Attorneys for Plaintiff Michael Cameron and L.C.

GOLDA BARTON, individually and as mother
and guardian of L.C., a minor child; MICHAEL
CAMERON, individually and as father of L.C.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

OFFICER MATTHEW FARILLAS, in an
individual and official capacity; CHIEF MIKE
BROWN, in an official capacity as police chief of
the Salt Lake City, Police Department; SALT
LAKE CITY CORPORATION; and DOE
DEFENDANTS 1 THROUGH 10.

Defendants.

Civil No. 2:20-cv-832

Judge Robert J. Shelby

Linden Cameron Public Statement

September 20, 2022

On the night of September 4, 2020, an officer from the Salt Lake City Police Department shot an unarmed 13-year-old child, Linden Cameron, multiple times during a foot pursuit following his mother's 911 call for a Crisis Intervention Team. Linden has Autism and his shooting highlighted the need in the State of Utah and in our Nation to address and improve the interactions between the police and those who have mental health needs. While the family is grateful that the bullets were not fatal, Linden sustained life-changing injuries and emotional trauma that continue to haunt him and his family. This tragic shooting should not have happened.

Linden's family filed a lawsuit in federal court for a violation of his constitutional right to be free from excessive force. The family also maintains that the SLCPD and the shooting officer acted recklessly leading up to the moment of the shooting because they knew Linden was experiencing a mental health crisis and knew that he would run from officers; yet those officers chased him down and shot him. The only gun on scene was the gun fired by the shooting officer. The family is grateful for the support and concern from family and friends as well as many interested citizens and reporters throughout the State and beyond.

Today the family announces that the lawsuit has been settled. We understand that this is the largest settlement paid by SLC in a § 1983 shooting case of this type. Although the family remains confident that a jury would support their claims, the settlement represents a desire to provide for Linden's long-term care, to minimize the family's emotional trauma associated with the shooting, and to resolve the case outside of formal litigation.

SLC and SLCPD continue to deny liability for the shooting and various news outlets have previously reported on their efforts to file a Motion to Dismiss the case because of qualified immunity. However, their actions following the shooting demonstrate that they understood the wrong that had occurred despite legal arguments that could be advanced. In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, SLC and the SLCPD took steps to improve their training regarding those, like Linden, who have sensory needs. SLCPD announced its plans to partner with KultureCity to provide Certified Sensory Inclusive training for all first responders – SLCPD, SLCFD and 911 Dispatch. Although it is heartbreaking that this shooting would likely have been averted if the Sensory Inclusive training had occurred prior to September of 2020, the family applauds any efforts that would spare other citizens from a fate similar to Linden's. We urge the SLC Mayor and the SLCPD Chief and to make public their promised efforts to provide necessary training and to otherwise improve their practices. We likewise call on other departments and first responders (locally and nationally) to make sensory inclusive training mandatory and a requisite part of their program.

The family believes that the events around this case and the settlement announced today are crucial steps towards increasing awareness of those with mental health challenges – our friends, family members, and neighbors who need our love and support. It is also an important step towards training first responders to meet these needs with the empathy, compassion, and necessary skills that the public expects from its first responders. More importantly, it is an important recognition of the tragedy Linden and his family have endured.

We now await the decision by the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office regarding whether criminal charges will be brought against the shooting officer. We urge Sim Gill and the DA's office to announce its decision which is long overdue.