

HUERTA FAMILY'S PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION FINDINGS CONCERNING THE DEATH OF JESÚS HUERTA AND FURTHER CONCERNS ABOUT THE DPD IA "PRELIMINARY FINDINGS"

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS: Can a frightened mother from a working class part of town call the Durham police for help for her much-loved though troubled teen, and receive police assistance? Why can't the police chief's IA admit that his officers, prior to the deadly shot that killed Huerta, discussed that Jesús was to be involuntarily committed to a mental institution for his known mental health and substance abuse problems? Why work so hard in front of a room full of media to deny that the 9-1-1 caller's warning that Jesús had made a suicide attempt had been passed on to officers? City officials at the press conference must have known that their own records proved that DPD officers that morning had in fact received even more specific warnings and talked about these dangers. Despite these known dangers, the officers failed to protect him under any scenario about where the gun came from.

FACTS: Durham emergency communications audio records reveal some of the communications between the officers show a much different view of what they knew than what was stated by city employees at the DPD press conference yesterday. DPD officers discussed that Jesús was to be involuntarily committed to a mental institution for his problems and that officer's discussed this that very morning.

QUESTION: HOW DID THE GUN GET IN THE BACK OF THE PATROL CAR?

ANSWER: Right now, we don't know. What we do know, and what the DPD IA refuses to admit is that Jaime Perez, on at least two, and possibly three occasions, had stated that Jesús did not have a gun and he, Perez didn't have a gun. They were together for hours that day. Why wouldn't the DPD officials answer your questions about this at the press conference? See attached audio of Jaime Perez on this point. Why only mention other things Perez said?

CONCLUSION: Ask the city and DPD to release their entire investigation, including all documentation and interviews since they are not telling us what they know.

Who does the police chief and his IA officials protect? Who do they serve? These are important questions. How the DPD conducts its IA investigations, and how the DPD treats families who ask for their help provides the answers to these important questions.

This email is being sent directly to City Attorney Baker and City Manager Bonfield for whatever comment they would like to make.

M. Alexander Charns, Charns Law Office