



**INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS
DIVISION**

Report Concerning the Police-Involved Death in
Dorchester County on September 4, 2025

March 25, 2026

Public Release: March 31, 2026

Declination Report Concerning the Police-Involved Death of Ryan Garcy on September 4, 2025

The Independent Investigations Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General (the “IID”) is charged with investigating “police-involved incidents that result in the death of individuals or injuries likely to result in death.”¹ If the Attorney General determines that the investigation provides sufficient grounds for prosecution, then the IID “shall have exclusive authority to prosecute the offense.”²

I. Introduction

On September 4, 2025, at approximately 5:10 p.m., officers with the Cambridge Police Department (“CPD”) responded to the Deep Harbour Estates in Cambridge, Maryland for several reports of a naked, suicidal man chasing multiple individuals with a knife. When CPD officers arrived, they encountered a naked man, later identified as Ryan Garcy, who was holding a knife. Officers attempted to speak with Mr. Garcy and asked him to drop the knife, but he did not comply. Officers ordered Mr. Garcy to stay back; when he did not, they deployed their Tasers, which were ineffective. Mr. Garcy, still armed with a knife, chased after one of the officers. The officer discharged his service weapon, striking Mr. Garcy. Officers requested emergency medical services (“EMS”) and provided medical aid until EMS arrived on scene and transported Mr. Garcy to an area hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

After completing its investigation and evaluating all available evidence, the Office of the Attorney General has determined that the subject officer did not commit a crime under Maryland law. Accordingly, the Attorney General has declined to prosecute Corporal Jacob Weber in this case.

The IID’s investigation focused exclusively on potential criminal culpability relating to the subject officer’s conduct. By statute, the IID only has jurisdiction to investigate the actions of police officers, not those of any other individuals involved in the incident. Moreover, the IID’s analysis does not consider issues of civil liability or the department’s administrative review of Corporal Weber’s conduct. Compelled statements by subject officers may be considered in civil or administrative proceedings but may not be used in criminal investigations or prosecutions due to the subject officer’s Fifth Amendment rights. If any compelled statements exist in this case, they have not been considered in the IID’s investigation.

This report is composed of a factual narrative followed by a legal analysis. The narrative is supported by evidence obtained in this investigation, including forensic and autopsy reports, police radio transmissions, dispatch records, police and EMS reports, police body-worn camera footage, doorbell camera footage, photographs, department policy, and interviews with civilian and law enforcement witnesses. Corporal Weber chose not to make a statement to the IID, which had no impact on the prosecutorial decision.

¹ Md. Code, State Gov’t § 6-602 (c)(1).

² Md. Code, State Gov’t § 6-604 (a)(1).

The legal analysis explains why the IID will not bring charges under the relevant Maryland statutes.

This investigation involved one decedent and one subject officer:

- A. The decedent, Ryan Garcy, was 30 years old at the time of the incident. He was a White male who lived in Cambridge, Maryland.
- B. Corporal Jacob Weber has been employed by CPD since January 2019. He is a White male and, at the time of the incident, was 28 years old.

The IID reviewed all available departmental disciplinary records and criminal histories of these parties and, where they existed, determined none were relevant to this investigation.

II. Factual Summary

On September 4, 2025, at approximately 5:05 p.m., a man called 911 requesting that the police and EMS respond to a residence on Riverside Wharf in the Deep Harbor Community because his neighbor's adult son had a knife and was trying to harm himself. As the call progressed, the situation escalated; the caller stated the man was now threatening his mother. The man then began chasing the caller. Around this same time, multiple 911 calls were made in reference to this incident, including from the man's father, who stated that his son had a knife and was trying to hurt himself. An anonymous caller described a naked man chasing a woman in the Deep Harbor Community.

At approximately 5:10 p.m., the first responding officer arrived and observed a naked man, later identified as Ryan Garcy, holding a knife in his right hand and a red cup in his other hand. The officer exited her cruiser and asked Mr. Garcy to put the knife down. Mr. Garcy did not comply; instead, he walked toward the officer. In response, the officer got into her cruiser, backed up, and waited for additional officers to arrive. Mr. Garcy continued to approach and threw the red cup, which struck the cruiser.

At 5:12 p.m., Corporal Weber arrived and observed Mr. Garcy. Corporal Weber slowly backed up his cruiser to create distance between himself and Mr. Garcy. Corporal Weber then exited his cruiser and stood behind the driver's door. Corporal Weber asked Mr. Garcy multiple times to drop the knife. Mr. Garcy did not comply. A third officer arrived on scene and parked his cruiser next to Corporal Weber. The third officer exited his cruiser with his service weapon initially drawn but he then quickly holstered his firearm and withdrew his department-issued Taser, pointing it at Mr. Garcy.

Mr. Garcy began walking toward Corporal Weber. In response, Corporal Weber withdrew his department-issued Taser, pointed it at Mr. Garcy, and repeatedly ordered Mr. Garcy to stay back. Mr. Garcy continued walking towards Corporal Weber and asked the officers to shoot him. Corporal Weber responded that he was not going to shoot Mr. Garcy. Corporal Weber repeatedly

ordered Mr. Garcy to stay back and to drop the knife. Mr. Garcy did not comply and continued walking toward Corporal Weber. Corporal Weber and the third officer deployed their Tasers at Mr. Garcy. The Tasers were ineffective against Mr. Garcy. Body-worn camera shows that Mr. Garcy began running toward Corporal Weber with the knife in his hand



Image 1: Still image from body-worn camera showing Mr. Garcy running after Corporal Weber while holding a knife in his right hand. The knife is circled in red.



Image 2: Image from body-worn camera showing Corporal Weber and Mr. Garcy moments before shots were fired. The green circle shows a witness officer pointing his Taser.

As Mr. Garcy charged toward him, Corporal Weber dropped his Taser, turned around, and began running toward the intersection of Riverside Warf and Seaway Lane in an apparent attempt to distance himself from Mr. Garcy. While running, Corporal Weber withdrew his department-issued handgun. Mr. Garcy ran after Corporal Weber, rapidly closing the distance between them. When Mr. Garcy came within a few feet of Corporal Weber, Corporal Weber discharged his department-issued handgun, striking Mr. Garcy. Both Corporal Weber and Mr. Garcy fell to the ground. Corporal Weber immediately stood up. Both Corporal Weber and a witness officer ordered Mr. Garcy to drop the knife. Mr. Garcy dropped the knife on the ground, where Corporal Weber later recovered it. The officers immediately rendered aid until EMS arrived. Mr. Garcy was transported to an area hospital and pronounced dead shortly after arrival. Corporal Weber sustained minor injuries.

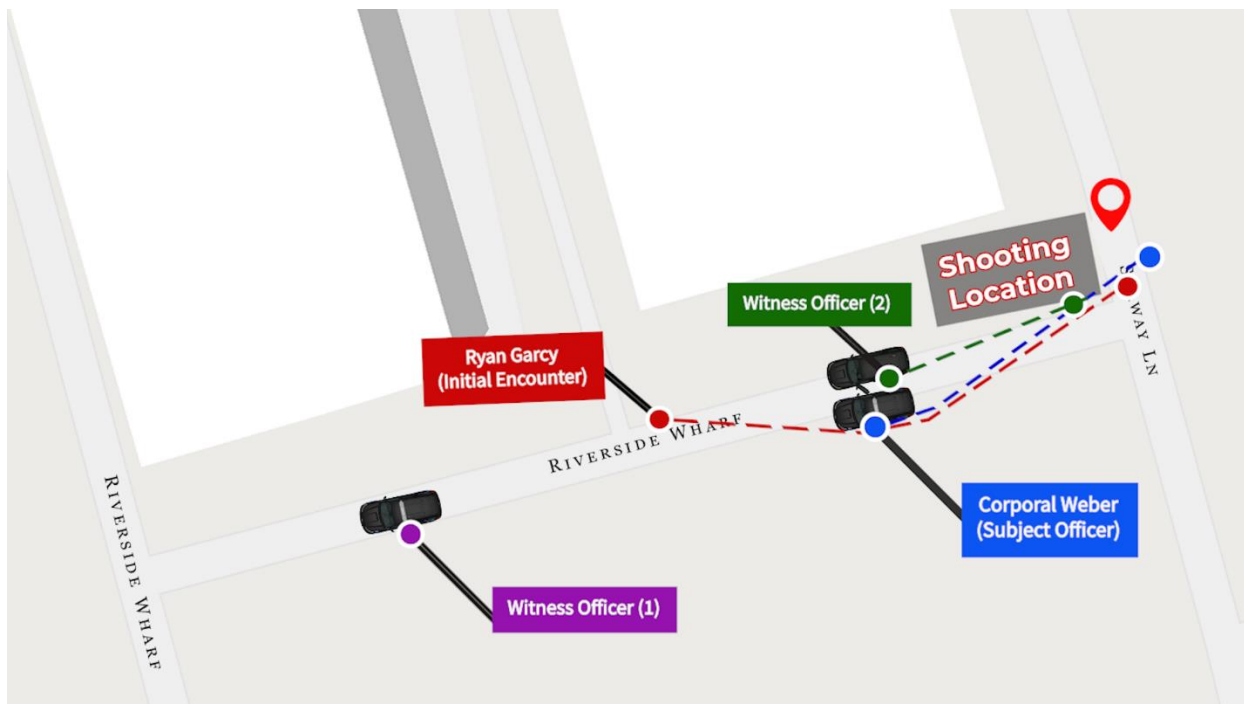


Image 1: Diagram depicting the positions of the officers at the time of the incident. The red icon marks Mr. Garcy's location when Corporal Weber and Witness Officer (2) arrived on scene. The red line illustrates the path Mr. Garcy took as he charged toward Corporal Weber. The blue line shows the path Corporal Weber moved as Mr. Garcy began advancing toward him.

III. Supplemental Information

A. Autopsy

On September 5, 2025, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner performed an autopsy of Mr. Garcy. The medical examiner determined that Mr. Garcy's cause of death was "multiple gunshot wounds." The medical examiner concluded that the manner of death was "Homicide."³



Image 2: A still photograph taken from body-worn camera showing the knife recovered near Mr. Garcy at the scene.

³ Manner of death is a classification used to define whether a death is from intentional causes, unintentional causes, natural causes, or undetermined causes. The Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner uses five categories of manner of death: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. These terms are not considered to be legal determinations; rather, they are largely used to assist in collecting public health statistics. *A Guide for Manner of Death Classification*, First Edition, National Association of Medical Examiners, February 2002.

Mr. Garcy sustained four gunshot wounds: one to the right neck, one to the right chest, one to the left arm, and one to the right thigh. There was no evidence of close-range discharge of a firearm.

B. Firearms Recovery and Ballistics Information

Maryland State Police Crime Scene technicians processed the scene. Technicians recovered Corporal Weber's department-issued Glock 22, 40 caliber handgun as well as five cartridge casings from the scene, indicating that five rounds were fired from the handgun.

C. Department Policy

CPD has written policies that provide regulations and guidance for their officers, including those which address the use of force and the use of deadly force. Under CPD Use of Force Policy 300.3, officers shall use only the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary, based on the facts and circumstances known at the time, to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Reasonableness is evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, recognizing that officers often make split-second decisions in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations. Because policy cannot anticipate every scenario, officers are entrusted to exercise sound discretion in determining appropriate force. If department-issued tools or methods are impractical or ineffective, officers may reasonably improvise, provided the force used remains objectively reasonable and no greater than necessary. Although the goal is to avoid or minimize injury, officers are not required to retreat or risk physical harm before applying reasonable force.

CPD Use of Force Policy 300.3.2 provides a list of factors for officers to consider in use of force scenarios. In determining whether to apply force and whether such force is reasonable, officers must consider the totality of the circumstances as time and conditions permit. Relevant factors include the immediacy and severity of any threat; the individual's actions, resistance, or attempts to flee; the seriousness of the suspected offense; the presence or proximity of weapons; the individual's mental state, impairment, or ability to comply with commands; officer and subject characteristics; the availability and effectiveness of alternative options; the risk of escape; prior knowledge of the individual; and the potential for injury to officers or others. These considerations guide an objective assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the force used.

CPD Policy 300.4, Deadly Force Applications, authorizes the use of deadly force when an officer reasonably believes it is necessary to protect themselves or others from an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

IV. Legal Analysis

After a criminal investigation, prosecutors must determine whether to bring criminal charges against a person to hold them accountable pursuant to Maryland law. When making that determination, prosecutors have a legal and ethical duty to only charge a person with a crime when they can meet the State's burden of proof; that is, when the available evidence can prove each element of that crime beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutors must also determine whether the

accused person could raise an affirmative defense. In those cases, prosecutors not only need to prove the crime, they also need to disprove the defense beyond a reasonable doubt. Ultimately, the decision to bring any charges rests on whether the available evidence is sufficient for prosecutors to meet those standards.

Based on the evidence, three relevant offenses were considered in this case. First is a violation of Maryland's Use of Force Statute, which makes it a crime for officers to intentionally use excessive force.⁴ The second and third offenses are homicide-related charges based on the intentional killing of a person.

There is insufficient evidence to prove that Corporal Weber committed the aforementioned crimes. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General will not pursue criminal charges against Corporal Weber. This report explains in further detail why, based on the evidence, a prosecutor could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Corporal Weber committed a crime.

A. Use of Force Statute

Proving a violation of the Use of Force Statute requires a prosecutor to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Corporal Weber:

- (1) used force that was not necessary and proportional to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to themselves or another person, or to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective;
- (2) intended to use force that was excessive, *i.e.*, not necessary and proportional under the circumstances; and
- (3) used excessive force that resulted in serious bodily injury or death.⁵

Determining whether an officer's use of force is "necessary and proportional" to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to someone or accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective is a fact-specific inquiry. Generally speaking, a use of force is considered "necessary and proportional" when 1) an officer had no reasonable alternative available to the officer under the circumstances; 2) the kind and degree of force was appropriate in light of the officer's legitimate law enforcement objective, and 3) given the context, the force was not likely to result in harm that was too severe or disproportionate to the officer's law enforcement objective.⁶ When a factfinder—either a judge or a jury—conducts this analysis, they must consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature of the call for service, what occurred in the moments before force was used, what Corporal Weber knew at the time force was used, and the time and distances involved.⁷

⁴ See Md. Code, Public Safety § 3-524(d)(1).

⁵ MPJI-Cr 4:36 (3d ed. 2024).

⁶ For a more detailed discussion of the "necessary and proportional" standard, see [this opinion](#) written by the Office of the Attorney General. 107 Op. Atty. Gen. Md. 33 (2022).

⁷ *Id.*; see also *Barnes v. Felix*, 605 U.S. 73, 80 (2025) ("[T]he 'totality of the circumstances' inquiry into a use of force has no time limit . . . earlier facts and circumstances may bear on how a reasonable officer would have understood and responded to later ones.")

Based on the totality of the circumstances, there is insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Corporal Weber used force beyond what was necessary and proportional to prevent Mr. Garcy from posing a threat to Corporal Weber or others.

First, with respect to whether the use of force was necessary, Corporal Weber and the other officers arrived on scene with reports that a man armed with a knife was threatening to hurt himself and others. When the officers encountered Mr. Garcy with a knife in his hand, they had a legitimate law enforcement purpose to disarm him. Consistent with department policies, Corporal Weber attempted to de-escalate the situation by talking to Mr. Garcy and giving him multiple commands to drop the knife and stay back. When Mr. Garcy ignored those commands and continued walking towards Corporal Weber with the knife in his hand, Corporal Weber used his Taser in an attempt to subdue Mr. Garcy with non-lethal force. When the Taser proved ineffective against Mr. Garcy, Corporal Weber attempted to retreat to safety, even as Mr. Garcy moved toward him with the knife. Mr. Garcy's decision to ignore Corporal Weber's commands and to chase after Corporal Weber while holding a knife presented an immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to Corporal Weber. Given this threat, we cannot prove that the use of deadly force in response was unnecessary.

Second, with respect to whether the kind and degree of force used by Corporal Weber was proportional to the imminent threat of harm presented, the evidence shows that Mr. Garcy ignored repeated commands to stay back and to drop his knife. Instead, Mr. Garcy chased after Corporal Weber while holding a knife, which presented an imminent threat of serious bodily harm or death to Corporal Weber. Under the circumstances, we cannot defeat a claim that Corporal Weber's use of force in response was not proportional.

Against this backdrop, there is insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Corporal Weber's use of force was not necessary and proportional to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury or death to himself. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General will not charge Corporal Weber with a violation of the Use of Force Statute in this case.

B. Homicide Offenses

When a person is killed, there are four homicide charges that a prosecutor may consider in the State of Maryland:

- First Degree Murder: the willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing of another.⁸
- Second Degree Murder: when the defendant intended to kill or inflict such serious injury that death would be the likely result and there was no justification or mitigating circumstances.⁹

⁸ MPJI-Cr 4:17 (3d ed. 2024).

⁹ *Id.*

- Voluntary Manslaughter: an intentional killing that is not murder because the defendant acted in partial self-defense.¹⁰
- Involuntary Manslaughter: when the defendant acted with gross negligence and that conduct caused the death of another.¹¹

First Degree Murder was not considered in this case because there is no evidence that the shooting of Mr. Garcy was premeditated. Premeditation requires a prosecutor to prove that “the design to kill must have preceded the killing by an appreciable length of time, that is, time enough to be deliberate.”¹² While this inquiry requires a fact-specific evaluation, a factfinder should consider the totality of the circumstances, including whether an individual is defending themselves against deadly force.¹³ As the shooting of Mr. Garcy was intentional, but not premeditated, Second-Degree Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter are homicide offenses for consideration.

If the evidence indicates that there is legal justification or certain mitigating circumstances involved, such as self-defense, then a prosecutor could not prove the remaining homicide offenses against Corporal Weber.¹⁴ A police officer’s use of deadly force is legally justified if it is in complete self-defense, defense of others, or in furtherance of law enforcement related duties.¹⁵

Complete self-defense, also known as perfect self-defense, exists when the accused: (1) was not the initial aggressor (or did not raise the level of force to deadly force); (2) had the subjective belief that they or another person were in immediate or imminent danger of serious harm or death and that belief was objectively reasonable; (3) used force that was not more than what was reasonably necessary in light of the threat or actual force; and (4) used force for the purpose of aiding the person that they were defending.¹⁶ Complete self-defense is an affirmative defense, which means that a prosecutor must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that one of the elements of either defense is not applicable.

When an officer has sufficient probable cause to believe that a person poses a “threat of serious physical harm,” the officer may use deadly force,¹⁷ and the reasonableness of that decision must be viewed from “the perspective of a reasonable police officer similarly situated.”¹⁸ In practice, this means that a factfinder must consider that police officers often work under rapidly changing circumstances and that what constitutes a reasonable use of force may change from moment to moment.¹⁹

¹⁰ MPJI-Cr 4:17.2 (3d ed. 2024).

¹¹ MPJI-Cr 4:17.9 (3d ed. 2024).

¹² *Tichnell v. State*, 287 Md. 695, 717 (1980).

¹³ *See Purnell v. State*, 250 Md. App 703, 714-715 (2021).

¹⁴ *See Malaska v. State*, 216 Md. App. 492, 517-522 (2014).

¹⁵ *Id.*; MPJI-Cr 4:17.3 (3d ed. 2024).

¹⁶ *Porter v. State*, 455 Md. 220, 234-36 (2017); MPJI-Cr 4:17.2, *supra*.

¹⁷ *Estate of Blair v. Austin*, 469 Md. 1, 24 (2020) (*quoting Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 11 (1985)).

¹⁸ *State v. Albrecht*, 336 Md. 475, 501 (1994); *State v. Pagotto*, 361 Md. 528, 555-556 (2000) (*quoting Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989)).

¹⁹ *Id.*

The evidence shows that Corporal Weber was not the aggressor in this incident. Mr. Garcy was armed with a knife and reportedly threatening others. Mr. Garcy would not comply with Corporal Weber's commands to stay back or drop his knife, despite repeated attempts by the officer to de-escalate and resolve the situation without force. When Corporal Weber attempted to retreat and move away, Mr. Garcy charged at Corporal Weber and then chased after him with a knife. Given these circumstances, we cannot prove that it was unreasonable for Corporal Weber to believe that his life was in immediate danger. Similarly, we cannot prove that it was unreasonable for Corporal Weber to use deadly force in response to the threat that Mr. Garcy's actions presented.

Based on the investigation, the actions of Corporal Weber do not constitute the crime of second-degree murder or voluntary manslaughter. We cannot overcome any of the elements of complete self-defense. Involuntary manslaughter, meanwhile, only applies to grossly negligent or reckless acts that result in death, as opposed to the intentional act of killing another; as such, the offense is inapplicable in this case. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General will not charge Corporal Weber with a homicide offense.

VI. Conclusion

This report has presented factual findings, legal analysis, and conclusions relevant to the September 4, 2025, police-involved death of Ryan Garcy in Dorchester County, Maryland. The Office of the Attorney General has declined to pursue charges in this case because, based on the evidence obtained in the IID's investigation, Corporal Weber did not commit a crime.