

Close-out Memorandum of the
Investigation Regarding
Darien Young
July 27, 2023



State Attorney's Office
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami-Dade County
July 9, 2024



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

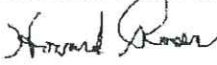
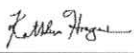

TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE DATE: July 2, 2024
State Attorney

FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM RE: SAO/Case #: 62/23/07/27/003
Deceased: Darien Young


Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the course of the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following:

On July 27, 2023, at about 5:32 PM, Miami Beach officers responded to the Victoria's Secret store on Lincoln Road in response to a 911 call advising of a male armed with a firearm who had followed a teenage girl into the store and taken the girl from her mother. A subsequent call reported the male had taken the girl hostage and had a knife to her throat. Police encountered Darien Young inside the store holding a young girl and a store employee in a chokehold with a knife to their throats. The victims were heard yelling Young was hurting them as various officers attempted to negotiate with him to release the hostages. Young became increasingly agitated and maintained his chokehold on the victims while moving backwards into a corner of the store and stated, "when I start to count, somebody's going to die." Officers shouted for Young to surrender, but he instead began counting. Civilian witnesses heard Young state he was going to kill the victims. Officer Corey Jackson moved towards Young and fired a single shot striking him which caused the release of both hostages who were guided to safety. The entire incident is captured on body worn camera footage and store surveillance video. City of Miami Beach Fire Rescue responded and transported Young to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased from a single gunshot wound to the head. Pursuant to F.S. 776.012 and 776.05, and a thorough review of the evidence, it is determined that Officer Corey Jackson's use of deadly force was legally justified.

The members of the staffing/review team for this case are:

 _____	<i>/s/ Deisy Hernandez</i> _____	<i>/s/ Stephen K. Talpins</i> _____
Howard Rosen	Deisy Hernandez	Stephen K. Talpins
 _____	 _____	<i>/s/ Marie Jo Toussaint</i> _____
Kathleen Hoague	Nilo Cuervo	Marie Jo Toussaint

Approved by State Attorney on this 09 day of July, 2024.


KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

DATE: JULY 2, 2024

FROM: REBECCA DIMEGLIO
DIVISION CHIEF ASSISTANT

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO
FDLE Case # MI-27-0228
SAO Case # 62/23/07/27/003

SONALI DESAI
DIVISION CHIEF ASSISTANT

OFFICER INVOLVED	OFC. COREY JACKSON, MIAMI BEACH PD ID #002-2044
DECEASED	DARIEN YOUNG
DATE & TIME:	JULY 27, 2023 AT 5:32 PM
LOCATION:	901 LINCOLN ROAD, MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
WEAPONS:	GERBER TACTICAL KNIFE (DARIEN YOUNG) SIG SAUER 320 SEMI-AUTOMATIC 9MM PISTOL, SERIAL NUMBER 58K123625 (OFFICER JACKSON)
LEAD/REPORTS:	FDLE AGENT LUIS ALVAREZ/REPORTS RECEIVED 5/29/24
CASE #:	M1-27-0228
SAO CASE #:	62/23/07/27/003

SUMMARY

On Thursday, July 27, 2023, at approximately 5:32PM, City of Miami Beach officers responded to the Victoria's Secret located at 901 Lincoln Road in reference to a disturbance. Police received a 911 call describing a male who appeared to be armed with a gun who had followed a teenage girl into the store, was "pretty violent", and had taken the teenage girl from her mother; a subsequent call reported that the male had taken the girl hostage and had a knife to the girl's throat.

Body Worn Camera footage shows consistency between all seven first responding officers, they encountered Darien Young inside the store holding a teenage girl (M.A., a minor) as well as a store employee in a chokehold with a knife to their throats. Young held both hostages in front of him and shouted for police to back up and holster their weapons. The Victims were heard yelling that Young was hurting them as various officers attempted to negotiate with him. Young only became more agitated and maintained his chokehold on the Victims while moving backwards into a corner of the store. As he did so, Young stated, "when I start to count, somebody's going to die". Multiple officers shouted for Young to stop when Young began to count, including Officer Corey Jackson. This officer moved towards Young and fired a single shot striking Young and allowing the release of both Victims who were guided to safety.

Civilian witness statements show that Young was sweating profusely and acting strangely before he entered the store. Once inside the store, Young approached M.A. and commanded others, including M.A.'s mother, not to approach. Young demanded the mother's purse. Even after obtaining the purse, Young grabbed M.A. and produced a military-style knife which he put to M.A.'s throat. As police arrived, he also grabbed the store employee who had been attempting to calm Young and held them both with one arm and the knife against their throats. He stated that he was sorry and he was going to kill the Victims. Young further stated that his life was over while he backed the three of them into the corner still maintaining the knife to the Victims' necks. It was at this point that Officer Jackson approached them and fired a single shot at Young, allowing the Victims to get away.

Surveillance footage from the store corroborated all body worn camera recordings and witness statements. A "Gerber" brand tactical knife with five-inch blade was recovered on scene. It should be noted that the adult Victim had multiple small cuts on her throat.

City of Miami Beach Fire Rescue responded and transported Young to the Jackson Ryder Trauma center where he was later pronounced deceased. Per the autopsy completed on July 28, 2023, by Dr. Kenerson, Young received a single fatal shot to the head. Young's toxicology report revealed that he had methamphetamines and amphetamines in his system.

CONCLUSION

The role of the State Attorney in this investigation and in conducting this review is limited to determining whether a criminal violation of Florida law has occurred, whether any person may be held criminally responsible, and whether such criminal responsibility can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. The State Attorney does not establish agency policy, procedures, and training requirements. Nor does the State Attorney have any responsibility for determining disciplinary action or pursuing civil litigation in these matters. In other words, given the applicable law, the State Attorney's role is to determine whether the actions of Officer Corey Jackson constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt.

We have reviewed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative Summary into the Police Use of Force in this incident. We have also reviewed the sworn statements, crime scene reports, autopsy report, lab reports, body worn camera video, and other evidence compiled by FDLE under FDLE Case Number MI-27-0228. We find the summary to be complete, thorough and consistent with the witness statements and body worn camera video as well as consistent with our observations at the scene. We adopt and attach that Investigative Summary hereto and also offer our conclusion based on the results of our investigation and review.

Officer Corey Jackson, along with other officers from the Miami Beach Police Department, responded to a hostage situation inside of a public establishment on the busy Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. Upon arrival, officers saw two females being held at knifepoint by Young.

Despite attempts from several officers to deescalate the situation, Young did not respond to their demands or requests to drop his knife and free the two females that he was holding at knifepoint. In fact, in the moments before Officer Jackson approached Young and discharged his firearm, Young can be heard counting which caused fear that he was about to escalate the situation even further given the threats he had made earlier in the encounter.

The actions of Young constituted Armed Kidnapping and Aggravated Assault. Based on Young's actions and commission of forcible felonies in the presence of the responding officers, Officer Corey Jackson was justified in firing his weapon in defense of others.

Section 776.012, Florida Statutes, permits the use of deadly force when a person believes such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. Further, Section 776.05, Florida Statutes, permits a law enforcement officer to use any force that he believes is necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making an arrest. Based on these statutory provisions we find the shooting by Officer Corey Jackson to be legally justified.

Prepared by:

/s/ Rebecca DiMeglio

Rebecca DiMeglio
Assistant State Attorney

/s/ Sonali Desai

Sonali Desai
Assistant State Attorney